CANNOCK
CHRONICLE

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Doors open

College campus reveals its new look after facelift

Page 4

Inspirational

Mum's the word as top parent title is awarded

Page 10

It's a thriller

Boxing Day draw keeps Pitmen on top of table

Back page

Fears as deal off at power station

MULTI-MILLION pound plans which would have secured Rugeley Power Station's long-term future have been scrapped.

The coal plant was to be converted to a biomass energy generator to make it more environmentally-friendly and safeguard 170 jobs while creating hundreds of temporary roles.

But GDF SUEZ, which runs the power station, has now abandoned the scheme.

Questions over the power station's future in the town have now been raised by a senior town councillor.

Town council vice-chairman Mick Grocott said: "Now it is not going ahead it makes me question how longer they will continue."

Energy

The project was in response to the Government's target to increase renewable energy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. It would have used the existing power plant facilities and all new equipment required for the conversion would have been located within the existing 372-acre site.

A website statement said: "After careful consideration GDF SUEZ has decided not to proceed with the Rugeley Biomass project.

"Rugeley will remain a key coal generator within the UK energy supply market."

Hospitals in staff crisis

HEALTH administrators have ordered a partial shutdown of Stafford and Cannock Hospitals to ease a staffing crisis.

Operations will be postponed at both sites to ensure safe staffing levels at Stafford during the winter. Cannock's Littleton Ward has been temporarily shut for up to three months.

Chief executive Maggie Oldham urged patients to only attend A&E if absolutely necessary and asked them to see a GP or call 111.

Former soldiers launch battle for new memorial

The 'insulting' memorial

FURIOUS former Staffordshire soldiers are going into battle to replace the 'insulting' memorial to their regiment at the National Arboretum.

Members of the Lichfield branch of the Staffordshire Regimental Association claim the structure resembles a 'raised manhole cover'.

They have now drawn up plans for a replacement memorial and are hoping to raise £10,000 to enable it to be built.

Assistant group secretary Dave Gouldingay, aged 55, said: "It is quite shameful for a regiment with a proud history of more than 300 years to be acknowledged with a pile of bricks that looks like a raised manhole cover."

The association wants to replace the present memorial with a 15-feet high obelisk and have launched a fundraising drive for the estimated construction cost of £10,00. Work could start in the spring with a dedication ceremony towards the end of the summer.

Pledged

Builders, architects and stonemasons with links to the association have pledged to give their services to the project free of charge.

The Staffords started life as the 38th Regiment of Foot that was raised at the Kings Head in Lichfield in 1705. It later became the North and South Staffords which amalgamated to form The Staffordshire Regiment in 1959. This became the 3rd Battalion Mercian Regiment (3Mercian) after another reorganisation of the Army in 2007.

Mr Gouldingay, who served with The Staffords during a 16 year Army career, said: "Many ex-Staffords and indeed many serving and ex-members of 3Mercian are appalled at the current state of their memorial site.

"The memorial is at Alrewas. That is in our county and this is our county's regiment. We should be leading by example."

Meanwhile, Arboretum bosses are calling for more people to add its 180-strong team of volunteers. They are looking for staff to welcome visitors and help organise events.

There are also vacancies in the education, retail, catering and grounds departments. and limited weekend places for Duke of Edinburgh students working towards their silver or gold award.

PATIENCE PLEA ON WORK AT JUNCTION

NINE months of traffic chaos is predicted when large-scale improvements to a set of traffic islands get under way this year.

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson said the work would be worthwhile as it would iron out many long-standing problems at the Churchbridge island.

by Marion Brennan

The £2 m project involving the strategic interchange, which links a number of major routes, is due to start in the summer.

The work incorporates three roundabouts connecting the A5, M6 Toll, A460 Cannock Eastern Bypass and the A34.

Approaches

The improvements will involve a series of lane realignments, of the carriageways of the A5 on the approaches to the roundabouts.

The junctions will also be moved to prevent 'pinch points' creating long queues.

The roundabout islands could be made smaller to create more space for traffic to pass around them, allowing extra room for vehicles at rush hours, improving the traffic flow.

The scheme is due to be completed by March 2015 but final, detailed plans are yet to be revealed.

Mr Williamson plans to raise the issue when he meets the roads minister in the new year, adding: "The last thing we want is the whole area becoming gridlocked when work starts, making what is already a dog's dinner of a junction even worse."

Mr Williamson said the work would sort out many problems at the spot and called for motorists to be patient.

"My great hope is that when this work is completed we will have a set of roundabouts that will greatly ease the congestion at this spot.

"In the meantime, motorists will need to exercise patience, as I believe it will be worth it in the long run."

Dismay over Christmas cemetery closure

Leanne Pincher's dad David Millington, aged 66 from Great Wyrley, sister Leanne, 33, and widower Danny Pincher, 37 at the closed cemetery gates in Strawberry Lane

FAMILIES visiting loved ones' graves on Christmas Day were left deflated when they found the cemetery locked.

Some scaled wire fencing to get into the burial site in Great Wyrley while others were returned home after being unable to gain entry. The Strawberry Lane Cemetery was launched in July and was supposed to be open every day, according to South Staffordshire Council's website.

David and Sharon Millington went to visit the grave of their daughter Danielle Pincher, a sister at New Cross Hospital, who died in July aged just 31. They drove past at different times. but it was shut throughout the day.

Mrs Millington said: "This was our first Christmas without her. Of all the days to close, this was the worst.

"The headstone had only been put up the week before and the whole family were coming. It spoiled Christmas Day completely."

District Councillor Janet Johnson, who represents Great Wyrley, said: "Obviously it's a time when people want to visit cemeteries, and it's unusual this one was closed."

Petition on plans is signed by 4,000

MORE than 4,000 residents have so far signed a petition against a bid to build on land between two villages.

Opponents to the plan involving the last remaining open land between Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay have launched a campaign to fight the project for 141 homes off Landywood Road.

KGL Estates is seeking consent to build the homes on land occupying a corner of the green belt site.

The proposed development was thrown out by South Staffordshire District Council but has gone to the government's planning inspectorate following an appeal.

Letters

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson, who is spearheading the campaign, has paid for letters to be sent to 8,000 homes in Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay asking for support. He was delighted with the response to the leaflet drop so far.

He said: "With over 4,000 signatures already, the opinion of local residents is clear. They do not want this development.

"Once we build on our green belt land, we can never get it back. I strongly hope the authorities will take this petition into account and make the right decision."

Nationalise M6 Toll call

CANNOCK Chase Council's leader claims nationalising the M6 Toll would be better for the economy than HS2.

Councillor George Adamson said the money used for the high speed line would be better spent bringing the controversial toll road into public ownership.

"HS2 will do nothing to improve capacity in Staffordshire and the wider area," he said. "Nationalising the M6 Toll would generate the extra capacity and do a world of good."

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CONTENTS

Letters	8
Around the clubs	18
Memory Lane	22
Focus On . . .	28
What's on	38
TV listings	39-41
Puzzle page	42
Property	43
Motoring	56
Sport	66-68

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The EDL wreaked havoc when protesters clashed with police in Leicester Street in the centre of Walsall in September 2012

EDL thugs sentenced for violence on streets

THIRTY one members of the English Defence League have been sentenced for their part in violent scenes that marred a demonstration in Walsall town centre.

They wreaked havoc on September 29 2012 and were sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court. Among those sentenced was Alan Turnbull, 32, of Rigby Drive, Chadsmoor, gathered bricks and was seen to have thrown an object. He was sentenced to 26 months.

Some 600 people came from across the country to attend the demonstration. Violence erupted in Leicester Street when an Asian man stood on a wall and made an 'inflammatory' gesture towards the EDL supporters, the court heard.

The EDL protesters then began to surge forward, trying to push through the line of police officers which had formed.

Missiles, including planks of wood, pieces of brick and fireworks, were thrown towards police lines. A Pakistan flag was set on fire and placards were also displayed. Pages of the Koran were also said to have been burned.

Exposed

Robin Allen, senior crown prosecutor from West Midlands Crown Prosecution Service, described the scenes as an 'orgy of violence'.

He said: "Police officers were exposed to some of the worst violence they have been subjected to in a public order situation."

The court was told Craig Forward of Tipton, had thrown a 3ft-long piece of wood towards police lines, although in his defence it was said he was of previous good character. He was sentenced to 25 months.

Mark Baker, aged 44, of Pleck, Walsall, was sentenced to 21 months. The court heard he did not use physical violence and did not chant 'hate language'.

Stephen Bennett, 23, of Palfrey, Walsall, was jailed for 20 months. Peter Kirkham, 30, of Dudley, had 'lunged' at an officer and grabbed his truncheon and was given 14 months. The men had all previously admitted violent disorder.

Samuel Phipps, 18, of Lingfield Drive, Great Wyrley, was given 16 months detention, suspended for two years after admitting the same charge. He was told to do 200 hours unpaid work.

Mr Patrick Currie, defending, said the former army cadet had dreams of serving as a soldier before a knee injury. He is now at university.

Dean Smith, of Tipton, was said to be at the 'forefront'. He didn't throw or chant but was convicted of violent disorder after a trial. Gary Lycett, 55, of Leamore, Walsall, was seen fighting with police officers holding a line to control the crowds. Douglas Ralston, 53, of Tipton, was filmed with others smashing up a wooden table.

Lee Rogers, 26, of Tipton, threw missiles and chanted. Jack Lambert, 25, of West Bromwich, was filmed throwing what appeared to be coins at the officers. Duncan Smith, 43, of Penn Fields, Wolverhampton, hurled bricks, while Stephen Currien, 30, of Bilston, stormed towards police with wood from a smashed-up pub garden table. Lee Coxshall, 34, of West Bromwich, was sentenced to 14 months, suspended for two years.

Nicholas Cooper from Bloxwich was given 27 months after pleading guilty to violent disorder. He was ordered to do 200 hours unpaid work.

A 17-year-old from Brownhills was given eight months detention and a training order, having been found guilty of violent disorder. A 16-year-old from Walsall was given a 12-month referral order for the same charge.

Stephen Bennett, 23, of Walsall, 20 months

Dean Smith, aged 33, of Tipton, 27 months

Jack Lambert, Wednesbury, 14 months

Craig Forward, aged 38, Tipton 25 months

Peter Kirkham, aged 30, Dudley, 14 months

Alan Turnbull, of Chadsmoor, 26 months

Douglas Ralston, 53, Tipton, 20 months

Stephen Currien, 30, Bilston, 28 months

Mark Baker, of, Wednesbury, 21 months

Duncan Smith, 43, suspended 20 months

Nicholas Cooper, 28, of Bloxwich 27 months

Lee Coxshall got 14 months, suspended

PCC gives backing as cadets to extend

CRIME Commissioner Matthew Ellis is looking forward to welcoming more recruits to the Staffordshire Young Police Cadets Service in the new year.

Cadet units have flourished in 2013 since they were launched in Stafford in April and Cannock in August. More will follow next month as the next unit opens in Stoke-on-Trent.

Mr Ellis said: "In just nine months since the first unit was launched, the service has made a real difference to the lives of 60 young people.

"I'm really looking forward to welcoming more young people into the service."

Cadets work towards Duke of Edinburgh bronze, silver and gold awards having a go at hiking, climbing and orienteering. In recent weeks, they have assisted officers conducting roadside checks in a crackdown on drink driving.

Chief Constable Mike Cunningham said: "I am very proud of the young people who have joined Staffordshire Police Cadets."

For more details, visit **www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-cadets**

Witness plea after robbery

A ROBBER made off with a quantity of cash as a security guard was making a delivery at a Burntwood bank.

It happened at around 3.15pm on December 19 at the Sankeys Corner branch of Barclays Bank at Chase Terrace. Police are appealing for witnesses.

The offender, wearing a balaclava, threatened the guard with a knife and made off with the cash in a dark-grey box. The guard was uninjured.

The offender and an accomplice drove off in a silver Insigna saloon type car down Rugeley Road.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 quoting reference 438.

Sale on at pub

PUBGOERS can enjoy a January sale with a difference at The Linford Arms in Cannock. The High Green pub is serving a selection of drinks between £1.79 and £2.49 as well as filter coffee at 79p. It will also be offering a choice of five meals at £2.99 each until January 23.

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Branch to close for a revamp

A POST office branch will shut for nearly two weeks in the new year for a revamp that will see it open for longer hours.

The Heath Hayes Post Office, in Hednesford Road will become open-plan with three screened serving positions.

The branch will open from 9am to 7pm on Wednesday and Saturday. It currently shuts at 5.30pm.

The opening hours of 8.30am to 5.30pm on Monday, 9am to 5.30pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will remain the same.

Nearest

The branch will be closed for the work on January 16 at 5.30pm and will re-open at 1pm on January 29.

The nearest alternative branches are at the Co-Op, Anglesey Street, Hednesford, and Wimblebury Post Office, 66-68 John Street.

Post Office regional network manager for Central England, Adrian Wales said: "This modernisation is part of a three-year investment programme.

"We are confident that this new modern Post Office service will meet the needs of the local community and secure services for the future."

New courses are launched

HUNDREDS of extra student spaces are being created at South Staffordshire College after it was announced a string of new courses will be launched.

The courses are being introduced at all four of college's campuses.

They include babysitting and child care, and an outdoor sports turf diploma.

Bosses say the existing team of lecturers will deliver the courses and 200 students in total will be able to enrol on the new courses.

Deputy principal Rob Boucherat said the courses would help students enter into higher education, get a job or start a business.

History meeting

NORTON Canes Historical Society's first meeting of 2014 will be on January 14 at the library in Burntwood Road from 7pm. Chairman Roger Knowles will tell the 'Story of the Norton Territorials (Harrisons Engineers)' who went to train and fight in the First World War. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served.

Safety advice follows spate of burglaries

POLICE across Staffordshire are urging all residents to call 101 to report suspicious visitors to their homes following a handful of burglaries in different areas across the county.

Five burglaries were reported in the run-up to Christmas. Residents were visited by door-to-door sellers while other suspicious incidents were also reported.

Detectives issued the warning to householders to prompt them to report suspicious activity.

The recent incidents happened in the daytime and items stolen include small portable valuables such as jewellery and laptops. Police are reminding residents to be vigilant, keep their homes secure at all times and report suspicious activity immediately.

While the recent offences can't be formally linked directly to each other or the doorstep traders, detectives are keen to locate the traders to identify them about their work and the locations they have visited.

Permanent

Residents are asked to carry out the following crime prevention advice to keep burglars at bay. Secure passageways and side entrances, make sure sheds and garages are fitted with proper security locks, and put tools away so they can't be used to break in to your home.

Other advice includes making sure ladders are on their side and securely fixed to a wall or permanent fixture. Keep wheelie bins secure and away from your property to stop thieves using them to get through first floor windows.

When darkness falls, residents are asked to close curtains and blinds to stop would-be intruders window shopping; mark items with a postcode and house number using an 'invisible' pen available so stolen property is easier to identify. Ensure valuable items are not left in plain view and keep them away from windows and doors; fit mortice locks to all front and back doors and locks to windows that are in easy reach.

Homeowners are also asked to keep house and car keys safe and away from doors, windows and letterboxes – never leave your car running while it's defrosting; keep garages and sheds secure; fit low cost security lighting as a deterrent.

For further information, visit the 'advice zone' section of Staffordshire Police's website at **www.staffordshire.police.uk**, or telephone the non emergency number on 101.

Football supporters ordered to sign behaviour contracts

FIVE men have been ordered by police to sign football behaviour contracts following crowd trouble at a football match.

The action followed their 'rowdy behaviour' at the FA Cup away clash between Hednesford Town and AFC Telford at the New Bucks Head Stadium in September.

by Laura Blyth

The latest group of men, aged between 18 and 24, from the Chasetown, Rugeley, Cannock and Hednesford areas, have all been visited at their homes by officers.

They have signed the football behaviour contracts which state they must not behave in a manner likely to cause harassment, alarm and distress to anyone attending or travelling to a game.

Breach

They also enter into a commitment with the police and football club not to cause or contribute to any violence or disorder in the UK or abroad.

If they breach the contract, they could be landed with football banning orders.

Ch Insp Dave Bird, who holds the football portfolio for Staffordshire Police, said: "We work very closely with all five major clubs in the county and also with colleagues in other police forces to ensure a safe environment at football grounds.

"The use of football behaviour contracts is a new concept within our football policing strategy."

It comes after Staffordshire Police made three arrests following crowd trouble at Hednesford's FA Cup defeat to Crawley Town in November.

Three arrests were made after fans entered the pitch and threw missiles during the home defeat at Keys Park. Police scoured CCTV footage afterwards.

A 46-year-old man from Wimblebury, was cautioned by police after he is said to have entered the football pitch during the first round game.

A 23-year-old man from Mill Crescent, Cannock, was arrested and bailed for allegedly throwing a missile onto the pitch during the defeat. And a 17-year-old was also arrested and bailed for possession of a firework or flare.

At the Telford game, Daniel Edwards, aged 19, of Park Road, Norton Canes, Cannock, was arrested and later charged with throwing a smoke bomb at the spectators area. He was bailed until January 13.

● Pitmen news – Back page

Noise shatters peace

A LOUD bang shattered the peace of Boxing Day for residents living near Rugeley Power Station. Site bosses said the noise was caused by the controlled release of built-up pressure. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service was alerted at around 12.30pm by a worried resident but confirmed that no explosion had taken place.

War veteran celebrates 90th birthday

Sam Poxon, 90, a WW2 veteran from Burntwood, celebrated his birthday with a 1940s-themed birthday party

A WORLD War Two veteran was jitterbugging and jiving at a wartime party to celebrate his 90th birthday.

Sam Poxon of Spinney Lane, Burntwood, fought in the Royal British Army before he was captured and made a prisoner of war in 1945. He became an RAF gunner after joining the force at the age of 18 but was forced to serve on the front line in the army after a high number of casualties.

His family organised a 1940s party to celebrate his birthday and 130 people attended wearing wartime costumes.

Mr Poxon said: "I joined the RAF straight from the cadets. I was a member of the air training corps in Aldridge, which was one of the first corps to be set up. I didn't want to go into the army but I had no choice. I travelled through Holland and Belgium but I was captured by German marines by Hanover in 1945.

"I ended up in Stalag 11B for five days before it was liberated in April, which was terrifying. I wanted to escape while I was being taken there, but I knew the troops were coming to rescue us."

Mr Poxon returned to the UK in a Lancaster Bomber and was stationed in Blackpool where he married his late wife Gwendolyn later that year. He left the army in 1946.

He said: "I've got five medals from my time in the army, including a victory medal and a prisoner of war medal. I think my family are proud of me and that is one of the reasons we had this fantastic party."

Sam Poxon at the age of 18

NEWS in brief

False claims for housing benefit

A BENEFITS cheat has promised to repay more than £42,000 of illicit handouts at £50 a month.

Stephen Wilkinson aged 54, of Brownhills Road, Norton Canes, falsely claimed housing benefit and council tax relief as a single person between May 2003 and September 2012.

Wilkinson admitted two charges of failing to notify a change of circumstances, was given a four-month prison sentence suspended for a year and ordered to do 150 hours unpaid community work.

Free event aims to advise carers

A FREE event to help fathers or male carers of children with special needs is being held in Cannock.

The Stress, Signs, Symptoms and Solutions Workshop takes place at Cannock Community Fire Station, Old Hednesford Road, on Thursday, January 23 from 6 to 8.30pm.

A buffet is included and booking is essential. Call Tracy Munday on 01785 356930 or email **skillshare@staffordshire.gov.uk**

Treasure hidden under road claim

A FARMER who owns the land where the Staffordshire Hoard was found claims more treasure could be buried under the M6 Toll Road.

The haul of Anglo Saxon gold and silver was unearthed on Fred Johnson's farm in 2009. And the 69-year-old sold two acres of his land under a compulsory purchase order ahead of the motorway's opening.

Legend Doddy in town theatre gig

COMEDY legend Ken Dodd is set to tickle his fans' funny bones with a performance in Cannock.

The 86-year-old comedian, famed for his wild hair and feather duster, is at The Prince of Wales Theatre in Church Street on January 25.

The show takes place from 7pm. Call 01543 578762 or visit **www.wlct.org/cannock/theatre** for tickets details.

Cycle trails shut

FORESTRY work in Cannock Chase will see a popular biking trail closed off this momth. The Twist and Shout section will be cordoned off to allow trees to be felled.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

HERE'S a nasty new twist on the 'update your email account' scam designed by internet crooks to extract your personal details. This time the message is : "Your Five incoming mails were placed on hold status due to the recent upgrade to our database, In order to receive the messages, click here to update your account." The threat is that they have your emails. They don't. And if you hover your cursor over the alleged sender's name, in this case "BT Customer Care," it should reveal the true (and probably hijacked) email address of the sender. You can pass this information on to BT but I'm not sure they're interested.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

ONE of the most enduring feminist myths is that if women were in charge, this world would be a much nicer place. Women (it is alleged) are gentler, kinder and more co-operative than the wicked old male of the species. This theory does not explain the terrible mess that the lady-led Girlguiding UK has made of the vexed issue of recruits swearing their promise to God. The Scouts, led by that ultimate alpha-male Bear Grylls as Chief Scout, faced the same dilemma. They consulted widely and then opted for an alternative Godless promise to suit atheists and agnostics. It's a free choice – problem solved. Girlguiding UK, in contrast, has imposed a hardline no-God promise on all newcomers which has caused great division and distress. Dissenting groups are now being threatened with expulsion from the movement. So in a movement designed exclusively for girls, whatever happened to the kindly female qualities? Maybe they should put a man in charge.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

THAT HS2 timeline in full. 2009: Government proposes the new line. 2010: First HS2 report paper published. December 2013: MPs of the Commons Transport Committee declare that HS2 is "essential" for the UK's future. So something we had never heard of four years ago is suddenly essential. How stupid do they think we are?

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

WHAT'S red, has 13 buttons and drives you bonkers? It is the DAB digital radio I bought in a daringly progressive moment a few years ago and which lies, unused, on a windowsill. I haven't a clue how to make it go. This week, thank heavens, the Government announced a stay of execution for FM frequencies. Ed Vaizey, the communications minister, says: "I absolutely believe that the future of radio in this country is digital." And that's where it should remain. Firmly in the future.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

SO FAREWELL, Ronnie Biggs. We should never celebrate criminals or their crimes, but you had to admire Biggs's cheek. In one interview, repeated last week, Biggs claimed that the chief purpose of prison is to rehabilitate offenders and, as he had rehabilitated himself, it was not necessary for him to serve his term. Did anybody not smile?

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

LOOKING back, the Great Train Robbers' haul of £2.6 million seems puny. Inflation has soared and at today's values it would be worth about £46 million. But something else has changed. Back in 1963 this robbery horrified the nation because it was a calculated assault on national icons we cherished and respected: the Treasury, the Post Office, the night-mail train and, above all, our fine banking industry. If someone stole £46 million from the banks today, would we be horrified? Or would we reflect on what a tiny sum this was, compared to the billions lost through greed and fraud when the banking system imploded? Respectable men in smart suits cost us far, far more than Biggs and his gang.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

AFTER much study, researchers at the University of California have concluded that men who marry attractive women are happier than those who do not. Good to see the Department of the Bleedin' Obvious is as busy as ever.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

AS the row over sexually segregated audiences at British universities rumbles on, Aston University declares that it would tolerate such an arrangement at religious discussions so long as it was voluntary. And what if an audience voluntarily decided they'd like to smoke?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Donors praised for rolling up sleeves

VETERAN blood donors from the Cannock area were among those honoured for rolling up their sleeves to help save lives.

At a recent award ceremony, the donors were recognised for a lifetime of giving blood, were Jonathan Brazier, Samuel Campbell, Kieron Clansey, Chris Harris, Paul Kemp, Moira Martin, Yvonne Plant, Peter Thompson, Alan Timmins.

Shailesh Mistry, Lead Donor Relations Manager at NHS Blood and Transplant, appealed for more to follow in their footsteps.

He said: "We would like to thank these donors for their commitment and dedication. They are an inspiration to us all.

"We always need new donors. The more people register and donate, the easier it is for us to collect the blood the NHS needs."

Anyone aged between 17 and 65, weighing more than 50 kg (seven stone 12lbs) and in general good health could potentially start saving lives by becoming a blood donor.

There is no upper age limit for donors who have donated in the last two years.

To book an appointment call the Donor Line on 0300 123 23 23 or visit **www.blood.co.uk**

The Cannock donors with Lynn and Adrian Oldfield and their daughter Phoebe who has been helped by blood donations

Bosses laud new-look college site after refit

THE wraps have come off a brand new college campus in Cannock after a year under construction.

South Staffordshire College unveiled its flagship campus in the heart of Cannock, with education bosses claiming the site had some of the best learning facilities in the country following its £6.6million transformation.

The campus in The Green boasts 25 new classrooms and teaching areas, a cafe and numerous offices. There will also be a hair salon for students to learn in which will also be accessible to the public.

One of the key features of the site is a 4D learning room where students can study their chosen subject to the backdrop of images played on the walls around them.

Trudie McGuinness, director of learner journey, said: "This campus is so important to the people of Cannock and beyond. This is right in the centre of the community and we want the people of Cannock to be welcomed and use it as they're out going to the shops.

"The facilities here are second to none when it comes to further education. Our 4D study room is extremely impressive. It offers a different learning experience that is immersive."

Ceiling

Steve Wileman, chief technologist at the college, added: "It a whole new learning experience for users."

The external features of the building have stayed the same, with several small extensions being built, mainly staircases surrounded by floor to ceiling windows.

The campus features a new glass-fronted entrance and a new spiral staircase now leads up from the first floor up to the second.

Subjects studied at the three-storey Cannock Campus will include hair and beauty, business, IT, media, health and social care, childcare and catering.

Charlotte Burford, an instructor and demonstrator in beauty, said: "The beauty rooms are spacious and nice to work in. We'll be here teaching manicures, pedicures and hot stone massages. It's good to see it ready to teach in and have the public come to use."

In October it emerged more than 70 jobs had been axed at the college as part of wider cost-cutting measures. Some of the jobs lost were compulsory redundancies.

Bosses said making the cuts was a 'difficult' decision but they said the move had to be made in light of government funding cuts of £260 million to the further education and skills budget nationally.

Rebecca Tranter, lecturer, with Megan Middleton, aged 16 from Pelsall in the college salon

In the refectory at the Cannock campus are, from left, Steve Pegler, Julie Nash, assistant director of Capital Projects and Joan Pegler

Director of strategy Jamie Smith, Harry Jawanda of Wambiz Ltd, director of estates Steve Grant and director of curriculum and support Chris Davies

Kayleigh Johnson takes a look in the 4D immersive lab at South Staffs College Cannock campus

Advice on virus is given by doctors

DOCTORS across Cannock Chase are encouraging patients to get to know the signs of Norovirus – and what to do about it.

Cases of the virus usually rise during the winter months. It causes a short but unpleasant illness that normally lasts two to three days.

Dr Johnny McMahon, chairman of Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) said: "It's important that people know the symptoms, what to do if they think they have it, and try not to spread it to others.

"Principal symptoms can be vomiting, which can be the projectile, and watery diarrhoea. Some people may also have a temperature, headache and stomach cramps."

Norovirus is contagious and is most commonly spread by touch. Dr McMahon said: "Although it is very unpleasant it is generally short-lived. Doctors cannot prescribe anything that will cure Norovirus and the most important advice is to take plenty of drinks.

"You should also stay away from school, work or other places where you could pass on the illness for 48 hours after the symptoms stop."

Get in swim at academy

LEARNER swimmers can make a splash at a new swim academy programme across South Staffordshire.

The Swimming Teachers' Association South Staffordshire Swim Academy will be held at Penkridge and Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centres as well as those in Wombourne and Codsall.

To launch the programme, the STA South Staffordshire Swim Academy is holding an open day on Saturday, January 4, at Wombourne Leisure Centre, Ounsdale Road, from 10am until noon.

The first Swim Academy lessons start on January 6. To book, call 01902 898202.

Island hopping

THE first Men Of Burntwood monthly meeting of 2014 takes place on Wednesday, January 8 at St Matthews Sports and Social Club. Keith Cattell will talk about 'Island Hopping'. Call 01543 685035 for more.

Open Events

Pre-School & Juniors:
Friday 31 January
9.30am-11.30am

Middle & Seniors:
Friday 7 February
9.30am-11.30am

Sixth Form:
Tuesday 11 February
6.30pm-8.30pm

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Donors are urged to help save a life in 2014

PEOPLE are being asked to make 2014 the year they start saving lives by giving blood.

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is hoping people in the Midlands will pledge to become regular blood donors for their New Year's resolution.

The New Year period is often a particularly challenging time for blood stocks – and as hospitals need 7,000 units of blood each day to treat patients with chronic conditions – NHSBT is encouraging new or returning donors to make an appointment in the first weeks of 2014.

Anyone aged between 17-65, weighing more than 50 kg (7 stone 12lbs) and in general good health could potentially start saving lives by becoming a blood donor.

There is no upper age limit for donors who have donated in the last two years.

Donor sessions take place tomorrow (Friday) at the Memorial Community Association, Rugeley Road, Burntwood, from 1.30 to 3.30pm and from 4.30 to 7.30pm

For more information or to book an appointment, call 0300 123 23 23 or visit **www.blood.co.uk**

Crime pledge as funds cut

POLICE and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis has vowed to not let a cut in Government funding hamper the fight against crime.

The Staffordshire force's grant will be £112.7m – down from £118.4m last year. Mr Ellis said: "Over the last 12 months, we've made good progress financially.

"We've been able to get new thinking and talent flowing by recruiting new officers for the first time in years.

"This extra reduction is a surprise but the work we've done means that we're in a strong position and we can meet the challenge."

Ramblers' walk

CHASE & District Group Ramblers head off on a moderate nine-mile walk in and around Northycote Farm Country Park & The Monarchs Way this weekend. They meet at Hednesford rail station car park, in Anglesey Street, for a 9am departure on Sunday (January 5).

Duo miss out in bid for Altern8 chart-topper

The Staffordshire pop duo Altern8

HE may not have been able to stop X Factor winner Sam Bailey storming to number one – but a dance producer celebrated hitting the charts with a re-release of an early 90s hit.

Friends Mark Archer and Chris Peat, from Gnosall, just failed to reach the top spot as Altern 8 back in 1991 when their Activ 8 song got to number three.

And this time round they have made it to number 33 after it was re-released as part of a campaign by fans to stop the talent show winner being the festive best seller.

Mr Archer said: "Irrespective of chart positions, I'd just like to thank everyone for their support for the campaign. It's truly appreciated.

"The support was more than I could have wished for 22 years on – the charts is a brilliant bonus."

A Facebook page attracted 25,000 'likes' and hopes were high that the track could make an unlikely entrance at the top of the charts. A series of remixes were commissioned by fellow DJs – all of which count towards a chart placing.

The record featured the voice of then three-year-old Clair Rushton, of Burntwood, whose phrase 'nice one, top one, get sorted' became a mantra for the rave scene.

It was the band's most successful song, kept off the top spot by Michael Jackson's Black Or White and, at No 2, Vic Reeves and the Wonderstuff's Dizzy and it stayed in the charts for almost three months.

Altern 8 had been performing as Nexus 21 and started Altern 8 as a side project. They appeared on Top Of The Pops and were famed for performing in chemical warfare suits and dust masks.

The pair split over professional differences and have not been in contact for years.

Work set to start in spring on extra spaces at cemetery

A FURTHER 1,200 plots are set to be added to a cemetery in Rugeley to allow it to hold burials in the years to come.

Cannock Chase Council is planning on spending up to £300,000 on the extension of Stile Cop Cemetery.

Work on the site in Stile Cop Road is set to begin in spring of next year.

There are also plans to add a further 15 car parking spaces, bringing the total number of bays up from 25 to 40.

Provision for motorbikes and bicycles will also be made available.

A series of remembrance areas, made up of woodland and landscaping spaces, will be created which the council says could be used by people for 'remembrance, contemplation and reflection'.

Cannock Chase Council's cabinet has already granted funding for the scheme and the proposals will be reviewed by the council's planning department and committee.

Welcomed

The six-figure project would take around six months to complete.

Councillor Christine Mitchell, portfolio holder of culture and sport, said: "We need this extension because we've ran out of space at Cannock cemetery.

"We want to be able to provide spaces for all people across the district, so we chose to extend Stile Cop Cemetery while we look for another site for Cannock.

"The new cemetery and Stile Cop is open to all in the district. This a much-welcomed development that will help us to meet the needs for the next decade."

New access roads are included in the plans, as well as new pavements.

Company in donation to aid hospice

A DONATION from a Cannock company will help a hospice to be refurbished.

The Black Country branch of Acorns Children's Hospice can furnish its new annex building following the £1,000 donation from industrial equipment firm Finning.

Acorns offers a network of specialist palliative care to support young people, with life-limiting or life-threatening illnesses and their families.

Through their three regional children's hospices at Selly Oak, Walsall and Worcester, and a community team who offer support at home, Acorns has helped around 640 children and nearly 900 families in the last year.

Acorns in Walsall is currently building an annex for parents, grandparents and siblings to use when visiting or staying at the hospice. The £1,000 donation will be used to furnish the interior of the building.

Sally Insley, community fundraising manager at Acorns, said: "We rely on fundraising and donations for the majority of our income so the support of organisations such as Finning is vital."

Pride as Evie walks tall for Christmas

Evie Poole from Cannock, who recently had an operation meaning she is now able to walk

IT is the ultimate gift one little girl has always dreamed of – to be able to walk.

And thanks to the tireless efforts of hundreds of fundraisers, six-year-old Evie Poole was able to take her first solo steps this Christmas following life-changing surgery.

"It is truly amazing," said proud dad Jonathan. "She has been so brave but always had a smile on her face. It really is the best thing we could ever have wanted for Christmas."

Diagnosed with cerebral palsy just before her first birthday, Evie has problems with her movement and co-ordination, requiring walking aids. However, hope was in sight this time last year when Mr Poole and his wife Jayne found out she was suitable for corrective surgery. They thought their dream of seeing Evie run around with her little brother Will would finally come true.

Dream

They were then dealt a crushing blow when NHS bosses rejected their bid to fund a Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy operation which would set her on the path to independent walking.

But nurse Jayne, 41, and paramedic Jonathan, 39, decided to raise the £50,000 needed for the surgery. They set up Evie's Butterfly Fund and the likes of skydives, mountain climbs and eating challenges followed.

By summer the target was reached and Heath Hayes Primary School pupil Evie went to Leeds General in September for the operation.

They are now seeing their bright and bubbly daughter learning to walk on her own. Jonathan said: "The response was overwhelming."

Evie has to undergo extensive physiotherapy but was chosen to turn on the Christmas lights in Market Drayton where her grandparents live.

NEWS in brief

Second chance of festive dinner

A CANNOCK pub is promising a second helping of festive cheer by giving a deserving family the opportunity to celebrate the Christmas they missed – for free.

The Chase Gate, on Wolverhampton Road, Wedges Mills, is calling on the Cannock community to nominate worthy families who missed out on a Christmas Day dinner for whatever reason.

The winner will be chosen by the pub chain's Fayrie Godmother and will also receive £1,000 cash.

To nominate yourself or someone you know, simply get in touch via Facebook or the website at **www.fayre-square.com** or **www.facebook.com/FayreandSquare** before the closing date of Friday, January 10.

For more details, call the Chase Gate on 01922 412264.

Housing group among the top

A HOUSING group has been named one of the top 50 landlords in the UK in a national survey.

Housing Plus Group, which includes South Staffs Housing Association, Property Care and Care Plus, was named as one of the top affordable housing providers by national magazine 24Housing.

Housing Plus reached the top 50 out of 600 finalists.

Charity plea over unwanted gifts

A CHARITY shop is appealing for donations of unwanted gifts.

Lynwen Truesdale, head of retail for St Giles Hospice, which has a shop in Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, said: "Unwanted presents are vital for our successful charity shops, and by donating gifts they don't wish to keep, local people can give a helping hand to the hospice."

Road is closed as roof tiles fall

A MAIN road was closed when roof tiles fell from a restaurant into the street. Around half-a-dozen ridge tiles came loose from the Fifty 2 restaurant in Cannock Road, Chadsmoor, just after 1pm on December 23.

A section of the road was closed as firefighters and surveyors assessed the building.

NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW WITH MARK ANDREWS

SOARING levels of personal debt. Crippling rates of indirect taxation. The fact that children in Vietnam stand a better chance of getting a decent grounding in the three Rs than they do in Britain.

All important issues, you would no doubt agree. But it's good to see that MP Mary Creagh has spotted another major injustice which should be tackled as a matter of urgency.

Thomas the Tank Engine.

Miss Creagh says the lack of female train drivers in Britain is a 'national scandal' and that children's television shows and 'negative stereotypes' were partly to blame.

"In the Thomas the Tank Engine books there are almost no female engines," she says. "The only female characters are an annoyance, a nuisance and in some cases a danger to the functioning of the railway."

Lighten up, love, it's a children's book. Of course, there is no reason at all why women should not become train drivers. They don't require too many map-reading skills, and the reverse parking shouldn't be a problem. That was a joke, by the way.

But seriously, if young girls want to become engine drivers, are they really going to be deterred because it was Edward, not Edwina, who got a new coat of paint?

Given that Miss Creagh seems to have spent quite a bit of time studying the works of Rev Wilbert Awdry, she would no doubt be aware that little is known about the gender of the actual engine drivers. We know Edward's driver, Charlie Sands, is a man, but who is not to say that the company operated a strict equal opportunities policy, with exactly 50 per cent of the drivers being female?

And a committed feminist like Miss Creagh will surely agree with the way the male engines were portrayed as having inherent character flaws. For example, macho Big Gordon was clearly an egomaniac who got his comeuppance when he blew a gasket.

And then there was hypochondriac Henry who was afraid of a few drops of rain.

"It went into a tunnel. And squeaked through its funnel. And never came out again."

Clearly a case of man flu. But he would have fitted in well on today's railways.

JUST a thought about these Boxing Day sales.

On almost every weekday of the year, thousands of the big stores do not open until 9 or even 10 in the morning, when the majority of people are at work.

Then, they shut up shop at 5.30pm, so nobody can do their shopping after work, either.

Then, on one of the few days of the year when most of the population is off work and free to call in at any time, they decide to open up at 6am. Great planning.

Jack, centre, seen with the Friends of the Staffordshire Regiment, at Whittington Barracks

The bullet that was left in Jack, but not discovered until an X-ray years later

Proud family – from left, nephew Kevin Edwards, grandson Ben Willetts, daughter Julie Willetts and son-in-law Sid Willetts

Bullet memento of our Jack the wartime hero

TO MOST people it may seem like an ordinary bullet – a relic of a long lost battlefield.

But to the family of one Second World War paratrooper, Jack Mansell, it is a reminder of their relative's past in one of the bloodiest episodes of the conflict.

The scrap of metal was found in the ashes of the veteran, from West Bromwich, who died in hospital aged 90.

His friends, family and members of the Armed Forces paid tribute to the Black Country Soldier who was one of 35,000 allied soldiers dropped behind enemy lines in the Netherlands during Operation Market Garden in 1944.

The operation, which was intended to force an entry in Germany over the Lower Rhine, had been seen as a way of finishing the war by Christmas but was a devastating defeat for the Allies after they encountered a far stronger resistance than they had expected. Between 15,130 and 17,200 Allies were killed, wounded or captured.

Operation

At the time Private Mansell was only 21 and was fighting with the elite airborne unit of the Second Battalion of the South Staffordshire Regiment, which he had signed up to because they were based close to home.

Pte Mansell was part of an anti-tank unit manning a six-pound gun and on the day of the operation his team landed by Horsa glider in a meadow about six miles from the vital road bridge at Arnhem.

After fighting waves of German tanks for several days, their guns ran out of ammunition and he and his fellow comrades were forced to pull back. But during their withdrawal Pte Mansell was shot by a German sniper in the right hip and taken to a field hospital.

The bullet that the Pte thought had passed through him remained lodged in his body for 69 years. It was only discovered during an x-ray of his abdomen during the 1980s.

His nephew Kevin Edwards said: "During the 1980s Jack injured his abdomen while moving some metal at work. A routine hospital x-ray showed a bullet located in his right hip. All those years ago, Jack had thought the German bullet had passed through him – in fact it was still lodged in his body. It was left there as it gave him no trouble."

Jack as a young man in his uniform

Jack's wife Evelyn during the 1940s

Jack and his beloved dog Buffy

Pte Mansell was cremated at West Bromwich Crematorium, on November 22, and to the surprise of the staff they managed to find the German bullet among his ashes.

Mr Edwards added: "It had melted a little, but was easily recognisable."

A couple of days after arriving at the field hospital, as the Germans arrived and took over, Pte Mansell and five friends slipped out.

The escape attempt proved to be in vain and Pte Mansell was captured quickly and sent to work in German mines and on the railways. Then in the spring of 1945, while on a forced march, a tank with a white star on its side appeared on a hill and an RAF Typhoon fighter-bomber flew low over – he knew he was finally free.

A couple of weeks later Pte Mansell was back at home – a comfort to his parents whose other son, Tom, had been killed in action by a landmine in the final weeks of the war. He had been serving with the Fifth Battalion The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

After the war, Pte Mansell returned to Germany, where he worked as a dispatch rider and spent hours of his free time riding around the war cemeteries on his motorbike, trying to find Tom's resting place.

After years of research on the internet Tom's grave was located on the War Graves Commission website, and in September 1999 Pte Mansell finally visited his brother's grave for the first time. Mr Edwards said: "Jack was a very proud man. He never considered himself to be a hero, although he was."

The 53-year-old from Pinewood Close, Walsall added: "He was a very popular and well-loved man. Men like him are literally a dying breed, and should never be forgotten. It would be a shame if his passing was to go unnoticed." Julie Willets, the paratrooper's daughter said: "My dad was a very easy going, family orientated man. He was a massive Baggies fan and went to a lot of the matches."

His funeral was attended by more than 300 friends and family members, as well as five regimental standard bearers and a bugler who sounded The Last Post. Guests also donated to veterans' charity Help for Heroes raising £620 in his memory. The 59-year-old from Fairyfield Avenue, Great Barr, added: "Despite all the amazing things he did, he never really spoke to me about what he had done in the war until the very end of his life. The stories I've been told about him are amazing." He also leaves two sons Terry, 66, and Paul, 44, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

SHOPS were evacuated, traffic halted and Army bomb experts called in after officers became suspicious about an illegally parked car in Wolverhampton. A young motorist from Bolton had parked his Triumph 1500 outside the RAF and Royal Navy recruiting offices in Bell Street.

A LEADING Midland department store was reopening after a major revamp, immediately after the Christmas sales frenzy. Crossroads star Jane Rossington was joined by Mayor of Dudley Councillor David Caunt for the reopening of Cooks of Dudley.

THE personal hi-fi craze was putting the hearing of thousands of young people at risk, warned four leading organisations for the deaf. The Association for the Hard of Hearing, the British Deaf Association, the Royal National Institute for the Deaf and the National Deaf Children's Society said loud disco music and home headsets were also a threat to hearing.

1993...

A PRISONER who resembled 'something out of Star Wars' after being encased from the waste up in bandages went missing from a hospital in Evesham after being treated for a spinal injury. But a search was called off when the man arrived back at Long Lartin jail near Evesham before the officers escorting him. His mother said he had misunderstood the arrangements and made his own way back.

THERE was little festive cheer in Bosnia, with a ceasefire agreed the previous week by the warring Croats, Serbs and Muslims being ignored as fighting continued.

Meanwhile, the IRA defiantly said it would continue its terror attacks in an unrepentant end-of-year message.

2003...

BOB Monkhouse died aged 75, following a two-and-a-half-year battle with prostate cancer. It was the ATV series The Golden Shot in 1967 which truly established him as the king of the television gameshow.

EXPLOSIONS that could be heard for miles around rocked the Black Country when six oxygen tanks exploded in a van parked outside a pub. The van, which had been stolen from a pharmaceutical firm in Tamworth, had been set alight at 11.30pm after it was parked outside the Horse and Jockey pub in Bilston. Windows at the pub and a nearby amusement arcade were shattered.

AVERAGE house prices in West Bromwich had risen by 15 per cent over the previous 12 months, putting it seventh in a national table of property 'hotspots'.

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NEWS

Gingerbread houses raise funds for Shelter

One of the finished gingerbread houses

Pupils get to work on their gingerbread creations

GINGERBREAD houses baked by schoolchildren in Burntwood were auctioned off for charity, raising hundreds of pounds for a good cause.

Year 5 pupils at St Joseph & St Theresa RC Primary School made the tasty treats themselves in class.

School governor Peter Coley then auctioned them off for the charity Shelter, which raises funds to help homeless families and children. The Great Gingerbread House Sale helped to raise £480. One of the houses sold for £41. Year 6 teacher Trish Johnston said: "In total with the sale of Christmas gingerbread biscuits created by the Year 4 class, the sale raised an astounding £480.

"Mrs Walker, Mrs Biddle and all the Year 5 children are extremely grateful to all those people who supported this initiative and helped them raise this fantastic sum of money."

500 apply for PCSO role

NEARLY 500 people have applied for just eight police community support officer jobs in Staffordshire.

The force is looking to recruit eight PCSOs to replace ones who have moved on, many of whom are training to become regular, full-time officers

The first phase of the recruitment process was an online application form. Chief Constable Mike Cunningham said: "We are looking for those who can make a real difference in our society, working as part of a team focused on what matters to residents and helping to keep people safe and reassured.

"This first step is just the start of a complex and challenging recruitment process designed to ensure we get the very best people to join our team and serve the communities of Staffordshire. It's important that the applicants understand the demands that would be placed on them.

"Over the last two weeks there were 1,257 attempts to complete the application process with around 460 completing their applications.

"Because of the fantastic number of applications we've received it's going to take a little bit of time, but we will be emailing the individual applicants with updates as we work to identify the shortlist of candidates for interview."

It comes after 14 Pcs were recruited earlier this year as the force ended its three-year jobs freeze. More than 1,000 people applied for the jobs.

The new officers at Cannock include Pcs Aiden Bolas from Great Wyrley, Luke Gilbert from Stafford and Katie Page from Burntwood. Pc Anthony Wilkowski from Rugeley will be based at Stafford.

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LETTERS

MP's help zone gets no rates discount

MY father always me told that if you had nothing nice to say at Christmas, then don't say anything at all. Sadly Labour Councillor Brian Bottomer didn't receive the same advice.

In the December 12 edition, he falsely stated I had the "highest expenses claim in the region". This is incorrect,. However they would be £6,000 per year less if his own Labour council did not insist on charging my MP Help and Advice centre full Business Rates each year – when every other Citizen's Advice Centre in Cannock Chase is given up to 90 per cent discount.

He also asked for a "breakdown of my attendance in Parliament" – something that is published online. For the record, I have voted in 81.5 per cent of votes. It's the same old Labour – the politics of smear and slander. Local people deserve better.

AIDAN BURLEY MP

Cuts blamed on other parties

RE: the comments from Paul Witton in *The Chronicle* of December 5. He needs to reflect back to his school days at Littleworth now Kingsmead.

I was taught that any money paid weekly/monthly is a wage unless it is money refunded for an amount paid out personally by a person to which a receipt should be submitted to prove the payment and what it was for. I would be very surprised if this happens to cover all the money Councillor Adamson gets. I also hope that these people pay tax/NI on these so-called allowances. Just to correct his comments I am not politically biased as I slate all parties if they do not represent the taxpayer.

Reference the cut Mr Adamson took in his allowances,it was not a huge cut it was a very small cut compared to the cut in the money of those who were sacked from their jobs. And I can bet he has not had to cut his lifestyle by much.

I would accept that the council had done a brilliant job had it have frozen the council tax like lots of other councils managed to do and still keep the services. It shows you support Labour in the way you try to blame the other parties for having to cut the budgets to pay back all the money borrowed by the Labour Government during their 13 years in power.

R PEATY
Cannock

Tributes to group of gallant campaigners

NOW the die is cast on the Pye Green Valley development it is surely time to pay a final tribute to that gallant band of campaigners the "Save the Skelly" action group.

They worked tirelessly to canvass opinion and gather a 5,000 name petition against the plans. It was their final petition that bought the issue to a public inquiry to be held at the Cannock Chase Council and objectors were led by a planning expert that the group themselves had paid for.

Many local residents spoke passionately and their heartfelt appeals are a vivid memory for me. As a Conservative Councillor at the time I was able to offer this action group team the use of our group room as their base.

If my memory serves, there was a complete absence during the inquiry of any Labour councillors. Considering Councillor Adamson's recent concerns for Pye Green Valley he might give some thought to a County Council document published some years ago which saw the Valley as site not just for the current 300 but for a total of 1,500 houses.

J BURNETT, Hednesford

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Fundraising success

TO all of our clients, friends and family. We would like to thank you all for taking part in our Children In Need weekend.

Thanks to all of your support we managed to raise a wonderful £562. Thanks again from Tinkerbells Nails and Beauty Salon, Heath Hayes.

MICHELLE AND STACEY
Tinkerbells
Heath Hayes

Challenge to UKIP's secretary

I WAS interested to read in the December 6 Chronicle that D Morris, the Cannock UKIP Membership Secretary, has recognised the role unions can play in helping local communities.

Perhaps what they don't realise is that up and down the country thousands of union members are already helping their communities by campaigning for safer working conditions, giving financial advice to staff hit hard by the cost of living crisis, and by opposing cuts in essential services that effect all communities like social and healthcare, youth services and education.

In November Paul Sykes, a man worth £650m, pledged a multi-million pound donation to UKIP in the run-up to the 2014 local elections.

I challenge D Morris to write to him, insisting that UKIP politicians' best electoral interests are best served instead by helping improve local communities all over Cannock Chase.

JOHN PREECE
Norton Canes

Festive switch-on was worth the effort

HEDNESFORD had its Christmas lights evening. Although it was drizzly rain there was a real air of Christmas. There were lots of stalls, rides and music.

I've not seen so much police presence; they seemed also to be enjoying the merriment. There were Santas , to the children's delight, and many shops were open too, so many attractions.

The Lightworks also was full of people enjoying themselves in the cosy warmth. It seems a good time was had by all.

So thank you to all who made this happen, great stuff, it was well worth the effort.

L CHANDLER
Mount Street
Hednesford

To driver that hit dog

TO the person who ran my dog over in Parkside Lane one Wednesday night just before Christmas. Thanks for not stopping and driving off at speed. By the way, my dog is miraculously all right. Not that you would know. I do wonder if it was a child you would do exactly the same.

CHRIS WILLIAMS
Cannock

Thanks as purse handed in

THANK you very much to the kind person who, before Christmas, found the little black purse with keys in near the subway in Cannock. They handed it to at Drinks Stop who took it to the police station.

I can't thank you enough.

J TALBOT,
Hednesford

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NEWS

Youngsters get hands-on with furry friends

1st Blackford Sea Beaver Kieren Stanton, aged seven, with Sara-Jane Scarratt, and Sea Cub, Ryan Stanton, nine

A SCOUT group got up close and personal with furry creatures when they took part in a workshop at a Cannock pet store.

Children from 1st Blackford Sea Scouts, Cubs and Beavers met some of the animals at Pets At Home and even got to hold some of the rabbits and reptiles.

The Orbital Way store said the workshop was a great way for the children to learn about how to care for the various types of animals. Jes Preen, deputy store manager, said: "The children had a great time learning about the different animals and loved meeting some of the store's furry and scaly residents!

"A pet workshop gives children the chance to interact with some of the pets in-store whilst trained Pets at Home colleagues explain the importance of keeping different pets healthy and happy."

Memorial work to start

WORK on a controversial miners' tribute in Rugeley is due to start this month.

Work is expected to take nine months and the monument will be unveiled in the autumn.

The £70,000 memorial in Rugeley will commemorate those who worked at the Lea Hall and Brereton pits and will take the form of four 8ft-high sculptures on the Globe island.

Public consultation showed residents favoured the site while council chiefs had raise safety concerns over the choice of the busy traffic island on the A460 at the gateway to the town.

Councillor George Adamson, Cannock Chase District Council chairman, said: "Common sense prevailed. The public were quite right to stick to their guns."

Sculptor Andy De Comyn, who created the Shot At Dawn memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, near Lichfield, has been given the commission to sculpt the mining monument.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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NEWS

Parent's efforts lead to Inspirational Mum title

A MOTHER-of-nine has won an Inspirational Mum award. Michelle Williams, whose children age from five to 21, was nominated for the award by one of her daughters.

Michelle, of Cannock, has raised her children single-handedly since the age of 22 and works nights as a residential carer. She won the competition run by Dream Street Model and Events, walking away with the prize of a trophy and certificate.

After winning through to the last four, she was invited to an emotional grand final in Birmingham, where her story touched the judges.

Daughter Stevie Jones, a beauty pageant winner, said: "The biggest prize is the recognition of the amazing job she does. I'm so proud of her."

Working

In her nomination, Stevie said: "She is not only appreciated as a mum but also appreciated by many of those residents she looks after and often receives thank you cards and flowers to show her how much she is appreciated.

"As well as working and being a mum at home, she also finds the time to take her children to football training twice a week and to a match once a week as well as driving her other daughter to photo shoots or beauty pageants whenever she is needed.

"Her other daughter attends singing practice and music lessons, another daughter attends school athletics club and my younger brother goes to Spanish classes. She not only spends most of her time looking after people but also spends a lot of time raising money for the PDSA and Sunnyside Dog Kennels."

Stevie added: "Mum arranged and took part in a six-mile walk dressed as dogs and raised over £300 for Sunnyside and recently donated £1,000 to Macmillan as this was a wish of my grandmother's before she passed away. That is also something that was very difficult for my mum as she was very close to her.

"Losing her mum also meant that she had to deal with her children's grief over losing their nan but to also try and find time for herself to grieve as well. She always thinks about other people and never puts herself first. She is always there for her children, her friends and to find time to fundraise for charity."

The ceremony took place at the end of November with proceeds going to Arthritis Research, an ongoing fundraiser by Chloe Avon, the owner and founder of Dream Street Models and Events.

Tesco Mum of the Year Anna Kennedy, left, with Michelle Williams of Cannock

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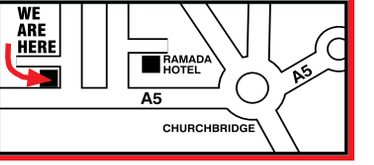

NEWS

Food items banked up by Barclays staff

Collecting for the Food Bank in Cannock are Barclays staff, from left, Rebecca Clamp, Angela Robertson, Linda Arrowsmith, Andrew Prince, Anne Moseley and Karen Roberts

BANK staff and customers joined forces to collect items for a food bank. Barclays Bank branches in Cannock, Penkridge, Rugeley and Chase Terrace asked customers to bring in goods for the Cannock & District Food Bank.

They dropped in dried and tinned food as well as tea bags.

Manager Karen Roberts said a trolley had been donated by Home Bargains for people to drop off items and said there had been a good response. Cannock & District Food Bank is distributing three quarters of a ton of food per week to families and in 2013 fed 3,000 people.

Schools, churches and businesses also donate non-perishable, in-date food to the food bank. Once collected, the food is sorted by volunteers who check it is in date and pack it into boxes ready to be given to people in need.

£10m retail park backed

A NEW multi-million pound retail park featuring big name stores and creating more than 100 jobs has received the go-ahead from planners.

TK Maxx, Costa Coffee, a drive-thru Burger King – the first in Cannock – and CSL Sofas will all take up places at the £10 million Gateway Retail Park near Churchbridge.

Cannock Chase Council's planning committee approved the scheme despite concerns it could draw trade out of the town centre. Around 108 jobs are expected to be created at the site, near the Orbital Retail Park between Walsall Road and Eastern Way.

Concerned

Councillor John Kraujalis backed the scheme but added: "Cannock town, to a certain extent, is dying on its feet at the moment and I am always concerned about out of town development which will take traders away from the town centre."

Councillor Alan Pearson said: "It is going to create employment in the area. I have no problem at all."

Agent David Green, speaking on behalf of the applicants, said: "We believe this application is a real good news story for the area. It represents a really high quality scheme."

A condition of the plans is that the applicant hands over £75,000 to be spent on the regeneration of Cannock town centre.

The development covering 5.8 acres will be located opposite the existing Orbital Retail Park.

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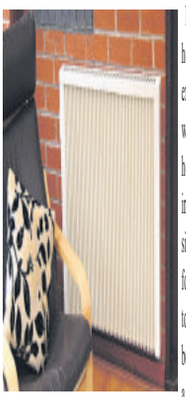

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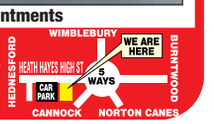

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NEWS

Christmas food for thought from pupils

Libby May Houston, aged 11, with Inclusion Officer Sally Burns and some of the food donated to the food bank

STAFF and students a Rugeley school showed their support for a food bank scheme. Pupils at Hagley Park Academy ended the school term by donning non-uniform and, in exchange brought in dried and packet food goods for the food bank,set up at Rugeley Community Church, in Frank Rogers Walk.

The school also ran a 'Christmas card of Kindness' campaign. Instead of sending a card to colleagues, staff donated items to the food bank collection box housed in the reception area. They collected enough to fill the school minibus

"The students and staff felt that being able to give something back directly to the local area was a really important thing, especially over the Christmas period," said a school spokesman. "The response to both these initiatives was really impressive and surpassed all expectations."

Hagley Park Academy began their involvement in the food bank project in June when they became holders and distributors of food bank vouchers. The spokesman said the academy intended to show its commitment to the local project through many different events in its calendar.

Councils rake in £1.9m from parking fees

COUNCILS in Staffordshire made more than £1.9 million from parking in a year, according to figures released just before Christmas.

The statistics show it has been a record year for local authorities across the country, with parking helping to rake in almost £600m nationally.

by Catherine Dalton

Lichfield District Council alone posted a profit of more than £1m through its parking operations – although this figure was actually down on 2012.

Cannock Chase brought in £168,000 and Stafford Borough Council generated £770,000. Meanwhile, South Staffordshire District Council made a loss of £82,000.

Calculated

Figures, released by the RAC Foundation, were calculated by adding up income from parking charges and penalty notices, then deducting running costs.

Lichfield District Council's finance boss Councillor Christopher Spruce said: "We haven't changed the cost of parking in council car parks for five years, and for the last four years revenue has been decreasing.

"I think the revenue is down to the new Debenhams store bringing people into the town, and also the work through the Mary Portas project has bought more people into the town."

Council chiefs in South Staffordshire said they were trying to bring people into villages in the district.

Nationally, English councils made a combined profit of £594m from their day-to-day on and off street parking operations.

This was a five per cent increase on the 2011/12 figure of £565m. It is predicted the surplus figure will be even higher for the current financial year.

Bosses at the RAC said councils had made record amounts from parking, yet the overall spending on roads had fallen by nine per cent nationally over the past three years.

Chairman in charity visit

CANNOCK Chase Council's chairman lent a hand at a food bank in the run-up to Christmas. Councillor Doris Grice went along to Trinity Church in Hednesford. District council employees showed their support by collecting food for Councillor Grice to take along. Councillor Grice has chosen the food bank at the church as one of her chosen charities for this year. She said: "It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to go and see the great work they do throughout our community."

NEWS

All in the family with first TV role for Lucie

IT WAS a Christmas wish come true for budding actress Lucie Brown – her first ever TV role.

The six-year-old from Essington is appearing as one of the family in new comedy pilot Raised By Wolves, which was screened on Channel 4.

Lucie plays four-year-old Mariah, part of a family of eight children living in a council house in Wolverhampton and also among the cast is actress Rebekah Staton, who grew up in Penkridge.

Lucie's character is the sister of Germaine and Aretha, based upon the Wolverhampton-born writers Caitlin and Caroline Moran.

Lucie goes to St John's Primary School in Essington and to CHB School of Performing Arts in Walsall at the weekends.

She was spotted when producers of the sitcom came around looking for youngsters to be in it.

Lucie, aged six, who plays one of the children in the comedy show

Hoping

Lucie was selected after an audition at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Wolverhampton in May.

Filming then took place over a week and a half in the summer at studios in Manchester. Lucie's mother Emma, aged 32, said she was hoping to see the one-off half-hour show turned into a full series.

"Lucie has about eight lines in it. She absolutely loved the experience and had a really good time. It was her first ever audition.

"She's a very cute little girl and she's very confident as well which I think helped to get her the part. I'm really looking forward to it being on TV because we've been excited to see it ever since it was filmed."

The mother of three, of Broad Lane, said Lucie had also applied for Britain's Got Talent to perform as a pop singer. Fellow cast members include Germaine, who is played by 20-year-old Helen Monks.

The cast members with Lucie, centre

She has also played Pip in radio soap The Archers.

The mother of the TV family, Della, is played by 32-year-old former Staffordshire lass Rebekah, who is also the narrator of BBC Three's Don't Tell The Bride series.

The creative sisters behind the show were themselves raised in Wolverhampton. Both sisters spent a lot of their youth in Warstones Library, which is now earmarked for closure and to be moved into a 'community hub' under council cuts.

Caroline said: "It was my world of books. I'm very nostalgic for Wolverhampton. I was even sad to hear that the 512 bus service is no more. It was the way we'd get into the town centre and go to meet our friends outside Charlie's Fish Bar."

Raised By Wolves tells the story of Germaine, Aretha, Yoko, Mariah, Wyatt and baby Cher living with their mother Della in a three-bedroom council house.

Della has a policy of naming all her daughters after strong female role models, and her sons after characters played by Kevin Costner. Their grandfather takes drugs and comes in through the window.

Germaine, played by Helen Monks, is based on Caitlin while Aretha, played by Alexa Davies, is based on Caroline.

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NEWS

Group keeps abreast of latest course

From left. Back, Emma Derry, Charmaine Jones, Rachel Spears, Hayley Parry, Donna Rushton, Victoria Parkes, Carly Richardson, Shauna Clark, Gemma Irving, Maria Montero-Santos, Katie Husbands, Emma Wynne-Owen, Caroline Burke

A SUPPORT group for mothers is celebrating after its members completed an eight-week course.

Penkridge BUNS (Breastfeeding, Understanding and Nurturing Support) Group hosted a training session for its members which included topics including breastfeeding challenges and counselling and communication skills.

The group of 11 women were presented with certificates by Pauline Evans, Unicef implementation lead for the South. Breastfeeding counsellor Gemma Irving, said: "Pauline attends many events such as these and she commented on how nice the atmosphere was between all of the ladies and what a lovely vibe there was in the room.

The women will be branching off and setting up various groups in the New Year. The first will be held on January 6 at Bridgtown Children's Centre from 9.30am to 11.30am.

There will be another at Norton Canes Children's Centre on January 15 at 10.30am, and two sessions on January 24 at Huntington Children's Centre between 10am and 11.30am. For more information visit **www.penkridge buns.moonfruit.com**

Pollution fears on A5

A FRESH bid has been launched to improve the air quality on main routes in Cannock amid fears there is too much pollution.

A report in 2008 revealed a stretch of the A5 between Churchbridge and the Turf Island at Norton Canes had high levels of pollution, exceeding Government guidelines.

Nitrogen dioxide levels of 49.1 microgrammes per metres cubed (ug/m3) were recorded that year, which breached government air quality objectives of 40 ug/m3.

That sparked an action plan from Cannock Council to tackle the problem. Levels have since fallen and now stand at 39 ug/m3 – but bosses say further reductions are still required.

Ideas

A new report has now been drawn up in the hope it will be adopted by the council. Ideas include installing vehicle operated signals at Churchbridge island to encourage traffic to use Lodge Lane instead of the A5. This is currently being considered by the Highways Agency and the county council.

The levels of pollution will continue to be monitored in the coming months. It is hoped some of the proposals will be taken forward into the next financial year.

A report to the council states: "The process of developing the action plan has been difficult and protracted, due to a number of uncertainties associated with the future management of the A5, and the severe limitations in terms of improving emissions from strategic trunk roads such as the A5."

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NEWS

Students over the moo-n at annual calf show success

Judge Jon Giles, Charlotte Bennett and Sammy, and Jennifer Raybould with Batgirl

SOME animal magic resulted in top prizes for farming students when South Staffordshire College hosted its annual Routes 2 Christmas calf show at the Rodbaston campus.

For almost two decades, students on Routes 2 courses from all over Staffordshire and the West Midlands have presented their calves at Rodbaston's animal management centre, near Penkridge, in front of judges, staff and families.

Learners worked hard to prepare for the show, caring for their charges for several weeks, measuring and weighing them, giving them health checks, monitoring and recording their growth and learning how to handle them.

The young calves were presented by their handlers in halters for classes including best calf handler and best turned out, most improved handler and most hard-working students on farm practicals. Families were invited to watch the 18 students and 10 calves perform in the judging arena.

South Staffordshire College farm and rural estates manager Jon Giles judged the learners' handling skills and their calves and presented the winners with their rosettes.

Learning

He awarded the Supreme Champion title to 16-year-old Jennifer Raybould, from Willenhall, and her calf Batgirl. Jennifer also won the best turned out category. Reserve Champion went to Charlotte Bennett, aged 19, from Stafford, and her calf Sammy.

Routes 2 is a supported learning course that assists young people with moderate learning difficulties.

Progression coach Diane Hodson-Walker said she was delighted with the success of the event.

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NEWS

Town trade is boosted by underpass revamp

A CHASE councillor claims a revamped subway is boosting trade in Cannock town centre and has made shopping a more pleasant experience.

The tired and dated Beecroft Road underpass underwent an artistic makeover to make the pedestrian entrance to the town centre more appealing.

It now features artwork depicting buildings and landmarks within the town centre and surrounding areas.

The work was carried out with the help of volunteers, designed by the council and transferred to tiles using new technology.

Tiles have been replaced and the underpass was also given a deep clean, repainted and improvements made to the lighting and flooring.

Attractive

Town centre regeneration boss Councillor Diane Todd said: "We have received a lot of really positive comments and it has made a real difference. It is brighter, more attractive and has given people pride in the town.

"The town has been really busy in recent weeks and that is really encouraging.

"We have taken many measures to make Cannock an attractive place to come and I think we are seeing signs of that."

The council announced in June that £200,000 was to be ploughed into other town centres across the district to brighten up high streets and boost businesses.

Council leader George Adamson said the money would be spread around more this year with the focus more on Rugeley and Hednesford. Improvements will include new bins, roads signs and planting.

Residents charged for removal of wasp nests

CHASE residents will pay up to £90 for wasp nests to be removed from their properties after plans to introduce fees were approved.

Cannock Chase Council spends £12,000 a year tackling wasp infestations but bosses now want to charge for the service.

A free pest control service for rats, mice, cockroaches, bedbugs, fleas and wasps is currently provided but it was agreed at a cabinet meeting to work towards a charge from March.

Care home gathers up food parcels for elderly

Age UK project manager Elizabeth Marginson receives food parcels from staff at Alma Court Care in Heath Hayes. Front, Lattie Lloyd and back, Julie Sidhu, Alice Brooks and care home manager Cherry Law

CARE home staff and residents collected food parcels for the elderly over Christmas. Eleven large boxes filled with festive treats were handed over to the charity Age UK.

Edible items such as biscuits, chocolate, cereal and cans of soup were collected at Alma Court Care Centre in Heath Hayes. The parcels were handed over to a representative from Age UK at the care home.

The collection was co-ordinated by the Lily Unit at the care home in Heath Way.

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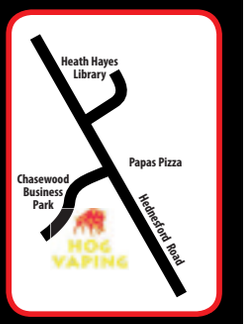

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CLUB NEWS

Step back to a Tudor Christmas

ETCHING HILL WI

ETCHING HILL WI were transported back in time to a Tudor Christmas by Helen Chambers.

She arrived dressed in a traditional costume and played authentic tunes on some very strange and interesting instruments made by her husband.

In Tudor times, during the 12 days of Christmas, there was much feasting and celebrating. All work would be halted, except for the caring of animals. Spinning wheels would be decorated with flowers so they could not be used for work. Tudors would exchange gifts on New Year's Day.

Mince pies were made with 13 ingredients, representing Christ and his apostles, they included dried fruit, spices and a little mutton – in remembrance of the shepherds. Christmas pie was a turkey, stuffed with a goose, stuffed with a chicken, stuffed with a partridge, and finally with a pigeon, then wrapped in a pastry case, called a coffin.

All this food was washed down with a drink from the wassail bowl, wassail meaning 'be of good health'.

The drink was hot ale, sugar, spices and apples. The punch had a crust of toasted bread placed at the bottom and was offered to the most important person in the room – hence today's 'toast' in drinking ceremonies.

The meeting finished with mince pies washed down with mulled wine and the singing of carols.

Buffet and entertainment

Members Joan Bullock and Mary Wood tuck into the buffet at Great Wyrley TG's last meeting

GREAT WYRLEY TOWNSWOMEN

THE last meeting of the year at Great Wyrley TG culminated in the members tucking in to a sumptuous buffet and being entertained by the musical duo Cherrywood.

The guild resumes on January 7. Meetings are held every second Tuesday of each month at Great Wyrley Wesley Chapel.

All new members and visitors welcome.

Comedy provided by one man band Brian

CANNOCK & DISTRICT SOROPTIMISTS

TEAM President Ronnie Reynolds welcomed members of SI Cannock & District and their guests to the Christmas Celebration held at the Barns, Cannock.

Everyone enjoyed an excellent meal followed by entertainment from Brian T Williams – comedy, guitar and one man band.

In between his songs he brought laughter – and some groans – with his humour and a skiffle band made up of willing volunteers proved great fun. During the evening a fabulous Christmas hamper was raffled.

The hamper was donated by Barry Picken, Governor of Rotary District 1210. Earlier this year Barry attended presentations given by SI Cannock on trafficking and child sexual exploitation.

He was so impressed by the work of the Soroptimist club that he decided to focus on the issue at his District Conference in October, raising awareness with Rotarians at more than 50 clubs. As a thank you and to congratulate the club for their work Barry donated the hamper.

Team President Lakhwinder thanked Barry for his generous gesture the proceeds from which will be donated to the BIG Project – Birthing in the Gambia. Each year on Human Rights Day, December 10, the SI President launches her President's Appeal, inviting Soroptimists worldwide to join efforts to support an initiative she feels is of the utmost importance to women and girls. International president Ann Garvie's appeal will raise money for projects that educate women about renewable energy, while empowering and enabling opportunities for them by providing solar lanterns and cookers.

Members of SI Cannock are supporting this project my making donations in lieu of sending Christmas cards and this year the club has sent £135 to the appeal.

The club's next event will be a quiz night to be held at the Barns on Tuesday, January 14. Teams of four are invited, tickets cost £7.50 each and include supper.

For details or to register a team contact Ann on 01543 571072 or email her on **si.cannock@outlook.com**

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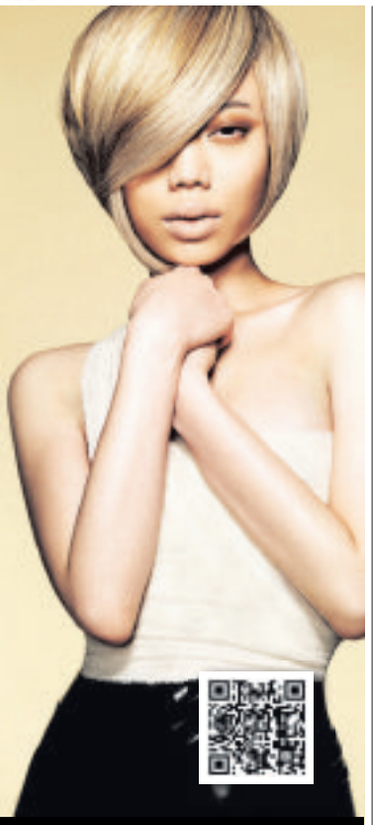

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NEWS

Tree festival proves a money-spinner

Chase Terrace Methodist Church tree festival organiser Sheila Tuckey with town council chairman Ron Bradbury

MEMBERS of Chase Terrace Methodist Church are celebrating the success of their first Christmas Tree Festival.

Supported by local groups and supermarkets, the church was decked with a dozen trees and other tree-themed decorations. Guest of honour was Town Council chairman Councillor Ron Bradbury. Organiser, Sheila Tuckey said: "The church looked just lovely and a visit to our carol service by the Woodland Beavers who sang to us was the icing on the Christmas cake."

More than £200 was raised over the celebration weekend which will go towards installing a new front door at the Princess St Church.

Post office on the move

POST Office bosses have confirmed its Cannock branch will close in the new year and move into WHSmith.

The existing branch in Church Street, will close at 5.30pm on January 29, but open at 9am the following day in nearby Market Place.

The move comes after a six-week public consultation. It is part of a major modernisation programme across the Post Office network designed to ensure branches are sustainable, profitable and no longer reliant on Government funding. Cannock Post Office is one of 369 Crown branches which are directly owned by Post Office Ltd.

The majority of branches – more than10,000 – are successfully run by carefully selected third parties.

Viability

The Post Office said its priority was to ensure it could provide a service to meet customer needs and to secure the long-term viability of the organisation and the network. There will be no compulsory redundancies as a result of the relocation of Cannock Post Office.

Roger Gale, Crown Network general manager, said: "We are committed to keeping a Post Office branch in Cannock and to maintaining the same levels of service. We believe the best way to do this is to change the way we operate the branch, so following the relocation it will be run by WHSmith High Street Ltd."

Following the move, opening hours will extend to 9am to 5.30pm from Monday to Saturday.

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NEWS

Chief making sure crime cash goes to help locals

CRIME Commissioner Matthew Ellis is ensuring 100 per cent of funding received by Staffordshire Police from proceeds of crime seizures goes to local communities.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Proceeds of Crime Fund is supporting projects with local policing teams and authorities. It is made up of assets seized from criminals in Staffordshire. A £4,000 grant has been given to Cannock, Rugeley and Hednesford Business Crime Reduction Partnership to develop the scheme in Rugeley to prevent and detect crime in the business community. Making sure businesses – particularly small local firms – get the help they need is a key priority for Mr Ellis who has launched the new Business Crime Matters strategy.

No further action over nazi garb for MP Burley

CANNOCK Chase MP Aidan Burley will face no further action over his attendance at a Nazi-themed stag party. The Conservative MP spoke of relief at his two-year nightmare came to an end.

Mr Burley said his part in the party had been 'foolish and insensitive', as a prosecutor insisted on the maximum fine possible for an Oxford graduate who wore a Nazi uniform to the event. Mark Fournier, aged 36, is accused of a dressing up as an SS officer at a restaurant in Val Thorens, France.

Aidan Burley MP

But his defence lawyer told the tribunal in nearby Albertville they should show him mercy because Prince Harry once got away with wearing an Afrika Korps uniform and swastika insignia at a party.

Mr Burley, 34, was with 12 friends, some of whom chanted 'Hitler, Hitler, Hitler', during the evening in December 2011.

Pictures

He lost his job as parliamentary private secretary to Britain's transport minister after pictures of the stag night appeared in the press.

Mr Burley said: "I am pleased that after two years I am finally able to put this matter behind me.

"I have known since February this year that the French authorities believed I had no case to answer and committed no offence under French law.

"However, I did not want to make any comments until the case was concluded.

"What I did was foolish and insensitive and I apologised at the time and repeat those apologies now.

"However, I am pleased that the French investigation has confirmed that there was no malicious intent."

Produced by students

AN enterprising group of business students are getting a taste of commerce by launching their own IT accessory products.

Team Dynamic, a group of 16 and 17 year old pupils from Wolgarston High School, Penkridge, have launched a 'Dynastand' tablet holder as their contender in this year's Young Enterprise challenge.

Young Enterprise is the UK's largest business and enterprise education charity and assists young people to get involved in the world of business, by giving them the opportunity to create their own enterprise and be competitive.

Team Dynamic is made up of Lily Rushton, Heather Richards, James Dunn, Bradley Clempson, Matt Smith, Jack Green, John O'Connor and Andy Rushton. They launched their own website for sales: **http://yedynamic.wix.com/yedynamic**

Train tragedy

A PERSON was killed by a train at Armitage Junction, between Lichfield and Rugeley Trent Valley. The victim was hit by the Virgin train from Euston to Bangor at 5.45pm on Wednesday, December 18.

Public support name and shame scheme

STAFFORDSHIRE Police is claiming overwhelming public support for its name and shame tactic to reduce the number of drink-drivers.

Almost 500 people completed an on-line survey asking whether they they were in favour of naming those charged with drink-drive offences.

But the move is not popular in some quarters with some saying it is unfair to name drivers who have been charged and not yet been convicted.

The survey showed that 83 per cent of those questioned supported using social media to name those arrested and charged for driving with excess alcohol.

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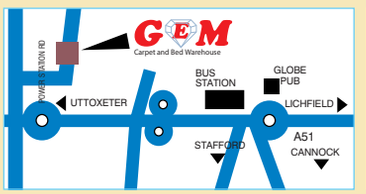
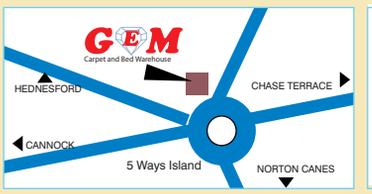
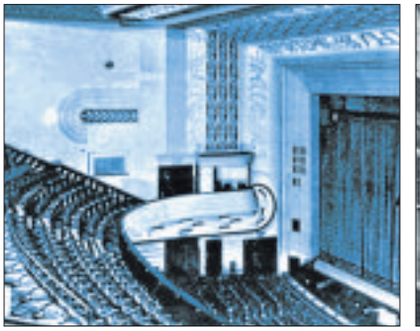




MEMORY LANE

Supporters of the Dudley Hippodrome celebrate the venue's 75th anniversary



An interior shot of the Hippodrome taken in 1957

Dudley Hippodrome, which opened in 1938, during its heyday in the 1950s

Comedy duo Laurel & Hardy also played there

Bob Hope, second left, at the venue back in 1957

Hippodrome's future still hangs in balance

THE opening of Dudley Hippodrome, attended by the likes of Wimbledon champion Dorothy Round, was billed as the greatest event on the town's social calendar in 1938.

By Mark Andrews

Just over 75 years on, the future of the venue – which once played host to the giants of showbusiness – hangs in the balance.

The likes of Laurel and Hardy, Bob Hope, and Chico Marx all played there, as well as rising stars Ken Dodd, Morecambe & Wise and Bruce Forsyth all played there.

Dudley Council, which bought the building in 2010, had planned to demolish it as part of a regeneration project, but the plans were put on ice in August following concerted protests by the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome. In its heyday, it was the biggest theatre in the West Midlands, according to historian Paul Collins. For its first 15 years, the Hippodrome was considered to be Britain's most modern variety theatre.

Its 1953 production of Jack and the Beanstalk, starring Harry Secombe, was the first pantomime to be screened live on TV.

Ironically, television was probably the Hippodrome's downfall as it struggled for audiences, and was making considerable losses by the late 1950s.

The Kennedy family, which had opened the theatre, gave up in 1958, putting their business into liquidation. The Hippodrome continued as a theatre under a string of different owners, but was increasingly being used for other forms of entertainment. Wrestling nights became a regular fixture in the early 60s, then striptease shows, and gradually it evolved into a bingo hall.

In 1973 it was taken over by Ladbrokes and renamed Cesar's Palace. Variety acts such as Mike and Bernie Winters, Ken Dodd and Tommy Steele continued to appear, but in the form of late night cabaret once bingo had finished.

The Hippodrome's fate appeared to have been sealed when Dudley Council applied to demolish it, having dismissed the Friends' business plan as requiring up to £10 million worth of investment. But the Hippodrome received a stay of execution when a decision was deferred.

More than 32,000 people have signed a petition calling for the theatre to be saved. There is no shortage of ideas or volunteers, offering to help with its restoration.

Tommy Cooper at the theatre during King of Hearts in 1954

Ken Dodd (top) celebrates the Hippodrome's birthday in 1957

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Mourners pay last respects to regimental mascot

Wreaths are laid at the funeral of Watchman IV

MORE than 100 people gathered to pay their last respects to the former mascot of the Staffordshire Regiment.

Colour Sergeant Watchman IV, the lovable Staffordshire bull terrier, was laid to rest at Burton Town Hall on December 18. After retiring from his duties with the Staffordshire Regiment in 2009, the dog then held the same role with the Staffordshire Regimental Association.

Watchman IV died at the age of 15.

For centuries, soldiers have adopted 'pets', and over time some are elevated to Regimental mascots. During the Nile Campaign of 1884/5, the 1st Battalion, The South Staffordshire Regiment adopted a dog, that was sadly left behind at one of the station halts as the Regiment travelled towards Khartoum. A few days later a half starved and exhausted dog arrived in camp, he had travelled through the desert to rejoin the Regiment by following the railway tracks.

Recruited

In 1949 this tradition was made official with the appointment of the first official mascot of the 6th Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment – Watchman. The bull terrier was presented by the Secretary of State for War as a prize for being the best recruited Territorial Army Battalion. Subsequent mascots have all been bull terriers and all are buried outside Burton Town Hall.

The funeral service was attended by the widow of Watchman IV's handler, the late Colour Sergeant Malcolm Bower, as well as representatives from the Mercian Regiment, Regimental Associations, The Mayor of Burton and Chairman of Lichfield District Council alongside many other civic dignitaries, serving soldiers and members of the public.

A Regimental spokesman said: "From the start he was a special dog. He carried himself with quiet dignity and assurance."

Watchman IV and puppy, current mascot Watchman V

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NEWS

Lorraine comes of age after heart op

Lorraine Seager, of Hednesford, celebrates 21 years since having a heart transplant operation

A HEDNESFORD woman has come of age, by celebrating 21 years since a life-saving heart transplant operation.

Lorraine Seager, aged 59, marked the milestone with a family gathering at the Nelson Inn, Chorley, Burntwood, having been led to believe it would be just herself and husband Brian having a quiet night out. Lorraine's brother Tim organised a surprise female vocalist and added: "Lorraine was overwhelmed by the whole evening and was still in shock the following day. Congratulations on a fun filled and active 21 years."

Lorraine was told she would live for just five years after she had the operation at Cambridge's Papworth Hospital in 1992. She was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy, an illness which killed her sister and brother, who was on the waiting list for a transplant when he passed away.

Jobseeker's claimants on decline again

THE number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance in Cannock has fallen once again, latest figures reveal.

Claimant figures for the district fell by 97 to 1,413. That figure is 739 down on the same time last year.

by Laura Blyth

Dole queues were also shorter in Stafford, South Staffordshire and Lichfield.

Director of Chase Chamber of Commerce, Chris Plant, was bullish about the future in the light of the new data.

He said: "These are very strong labour market figures, which back our recent forecast of increased growth in the fourth quarter of this year.

Queues

"Employment is up, inactivity is down, and while youth and long-term unemployment remain high, there has been an improvement."

Cannock Chase MP Aidan Burley welcomed the fact dole queues are shrinking.

He said: "The news that unemployment in Cannock Chase is continuing to fall is especially encouraging.

"Creating jobs and improving training opportunities has been my number one priority since being elected."

Across the West Midlands the claimant count fell 5,836 to 129,248, or 3.6 per cent of the region's working age population. Wolverhampton still has the highest rate for the West Midlands of 6.5 per cent.

The number claiming in the city was down 502 to 10,387. Dudley fell 508 to 8,188 (4.2 per cent), Sandwell was down 409 at 11,036 (5.6 per cent) and Walsall by 385 to 8,120 (4.9 per cent).

The number claiming in Stafford fell 117 to 1,244 (1.5 per cent), South Staffordshire by 95 to 1,265 and Lichfield fell by 83 to 846 (1.4 per cent). The Wyre Forest district, covering Kidderminster, saw a fall of 142 to 1,781 (3 per cent).

Former head collects MBE

A FORMER Cannock headteacher received his MBE from The Queen at Buckingham Palace. David Pearsall, former chairman of Staffordshire Police Authority, accepted the honour with his wife Pauline. It was awarded in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his services to the community. The 72-year-old served on Staffordshire Police Authority from 1994 until last year. Mr Pearsall also served as a magistrate for more than 30 years, as well as pursuing a career in education. He was head of Ravenhill Primary School in Brereton, and of Walhouse CofE Junior School, Cannock.

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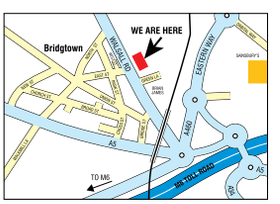

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NEWS

Robbie turning on style to open salon

Stylist Robbie McGarva at his new salon in Bridgtown

A HAIRDRESSER who has worked at shows in London and Sydney has opened his own salon in Cannock.

Robbie McGarva, launched RAMhair in North Street, Bridgtown, after deciding to branch out and set up his own business. The 27-year-old, originally from Glasgow, has worked behind the scenes at various fashion shows and did some of his training at college in Cannock.

He said: "I moved to Cannock because I have some family here and that was when I decided to set up my own salon.

"I decided to visit the college after doing my training to give something back to them for helping me and I have now taken on one of their graduates. I would like to take on another stylist in the summer along with a Saturday girl."

The salon took two weeks to refurbish before its official opening. Mr McGarva said: "I am really looking forward to the future."

Pay deal for JCB shopfloor staff comes into effect

SHOPFLOOR workers at digger group JCB have voted to accept a 2.6 per cent pay rise as part of a newly-agreed three-year wage deal.

The agreement on the pay proposal was reached following a vote by GMB members before Christmas and will see around 3,200 shopfloor employees receive the pay rise.

The rise came into effect on January 1.

by Simon Penfold

It will affect workers at JCB's base in Rugeley, although that factory is due to close under £150 million expansion plans announced towards the end of last year.

Linked

JCB bosses revealed plans to create an additional 2,500 jobs by 2018, to include a new purpose-built 350,000 sq ft factory for JCB Cab Systems in Beamhurst, near Uttoxeter, to replace the Rugeley site.

The increase is linked to November's Retail Price Index – RPI. Increases in 2015 and 2016 will also be linked to those years' respective November RPI figures.

The latest deal came into force on January 1 following the expiry on December 31 of a three and a half year pay deal agreed in 2010.

Chief executive officer designate Graeme Macdonald, who took over as CEO on New Year's Day, said: "We are pleased to have reached agreement again on a long-term pay deal for JCB's UK shopfloor employees.

"It's very welcome news and gives us the stability and forward visibility we need to plan ahead as we gear up to face the challenges and opportunities we will face in 2014 and beyond.

"The agreement also demonstrates a very responsible approach by all concerned."

Golden anniversary date

A FORMER vicar of Brereton and his wife have marked 50 years of wedded bliss. John and Rosemary Smart were married at St Luke's Cannock on December 28 1963. Mr Smart later became vicar of St Michael's in 1970. From then until 1985, the Smarts lived in the vicarage with their children Sarah, Christopher, Katie and Andrew, who was born there. The children attended Hob Hill and Hagley Park schools. Retiring from their final parish of East Clevedon in North Somerset the Smarts now live in South Zeal in the Dartmoor National Park near Oakhampton.

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Shoppers urged to go local and boost the high street

TRADERS in Burntwood have joined together in a bid to boost the local economy by millions of pounds.

Businesses in Burntwood have founded a new initiative called Totally Locally WS7.

by Charlotte Lilley

The aim is to encourage shoppers to spend their cash in independent stores.

Chairman of the Burntwood Business Crew, David Whitehouse, said: "If every adult in the WS7 postcode area spent just £5 a week extra in local independent shops and businesses, this would be worth a staggering £4.3 million to the local economy every year.

Nicer

"In reality, what this means is more local shops staying open, more businesses that supply them succeeding, more local jobs and a nicer place to live and work."

Kailey Turner, manager of Belle Fleur florists on the Swan Island, added: "Hopefully this will encourage people to shop locally and support independent businesses."

The **www.totallylocallyws7.co.uk** website lists more than 100 businesses in the town. The initiative was set up by the Burntwood Business Crew, made up of local traders, thanks to £50,000 of High Street Innovation Funding from Lichfield District Council.

Projects identified as priorities by the team so far include improved road signage, new welcome signs in key retail areas and better promotion.

Councillor Helen Fisher, who represents the Highfield ward, said: "We're sending out a leaflet to local homes asking people to stop and think and rather than walk or drive past, to pop into a local shop and give it a go.

"There are some fantastic shops and brands across the Burntwood area, including Swan Island, Chasetown High Street, Morley Road, Ryecroft, Sankeys Corner and the business parks."

For more details on the scheme visit the Totally Locally WS7 website.

If you have any news stories or pictures from this, please let us know. Call 01543 465305 or email: charlotte.lilley @expressandstar.co.uk

A new initiative in Burntwood to get shoppers to buy local has been launched, called Totally Locally. It is great news to Kailey Turner, of from Belle Fleur, a flower shop at Swan Island, Burntwood which recently opened

Warning of cold callers is issued to residents

RESIDENTS in Burntwood have been warned to be on their guard against cold callers this winter.

There have been several reports from homeowners about callers offering guttering, roofing, driveway cleaning and tree pruning, with some traders becoming aggressive or persistent.

A spokesman for the town's Neighbourhood Watch said: "Elderly residents may be particularly vulnerable to such callers and agree to have unnecessary work done.

"We know of cases where large amounts of cash have been paid, also giving a message that cash is kept in the house.

"Please always say no thank you to all door-step callers if they are persistent, phone the police."

Residents can contact Staffordshire Police on 101 number or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Apprentices a boost – MP

LICHFIELD MP Michael Fabricant has hailed a rise in the number of apprentices across his constituency.

Figures for the 2012/13 period showed an increase in the number of apprentices, up from 480 in 2009 to 860.

Mr Fabricant said the numbers were a boost to the local area.

Youngsters buzzing as Bust Bees celebrates

TODDLERS were buzzing with excitement when they celebrated their nursery's 30th anniversary.

The Busy Bees group, which was founded in 1983, marked the occasion with parties at its nurseries across the country, including one in Burntwood.

Youngsters and staff dressed up as bees and took part in various activities. They also enjoyed a tea party and stories.

Co-founder Marg Randles said: "I can't think of anything better than to share this occasion with so many of our children.

"It was so special to see so many of our old friends and families come back to share some fond memories and delicious tea and cake.

"Never in a million years did we consider that our idea to create a nursery, good enough for our own children, would evolve to this extent."

Choir among musical acts

MUSICIANS including Cannock Chase Orpheus Male Voice Choir perform at Darlaston All Active on February 8 as a tribute to The Charlatans' Jon Brookes.

A guitar signed by actor Danny Dyer will be auctioned in aid of the Brain Tumour Society. For tickets, call 07857 013857.

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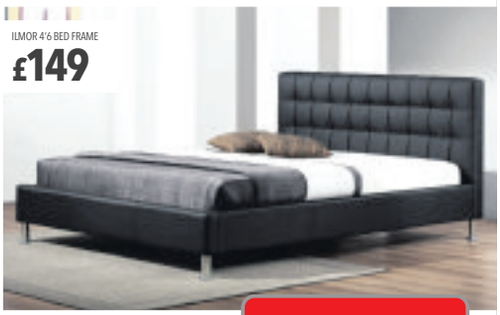

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Funding will be available for children and families, who are eligible, from the age of 2. Sessions will be charged at £6 each for all others.

We will be registered with OFSTED in December this year and staff are already in place to receive children when we open.

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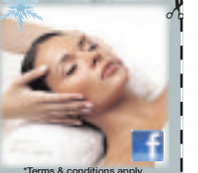

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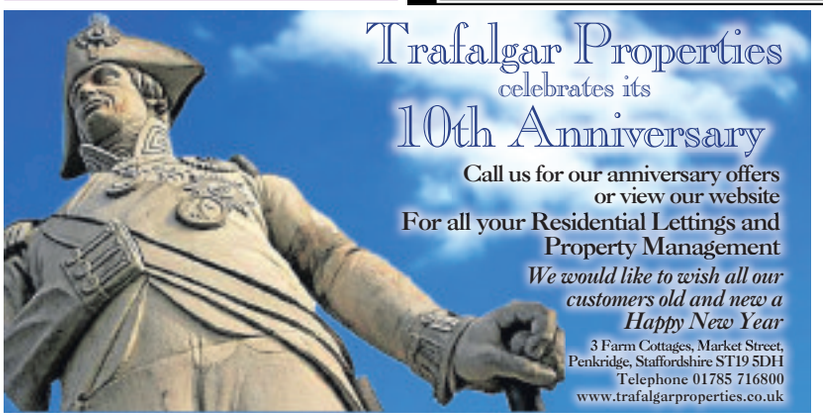

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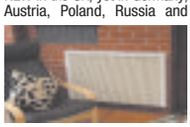
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20

• January •

Mo		6	13	20	27	
Tu		7	14	21	28	
We	1	8	15	22	29	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	
Fr	3	10	17	24	31	
Sa	4	11	18	25		
Su	5	12	19	26		

• March •

Mo		3	10	17	24	31
Tu		4	11	18	25	
We		5	12	19	26	
Th		6	13	20	27	
Fr		7	14	21	28	
Sa	1	8	15	22	29	
Su	2	9	16	23	30	

• May •

Mo		5	12	19	26	
Tu		6	13	20	27	
We		7	14	21	28	
Th	1	8	15	22	29	
Fr	2	9	16	23	30	
Sa	3	10	17	24	31	
Su	4	11	18	25		

• July •

Mo		7	14	21	28	
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	
We	2	9	16	23	30	
Th	3	10	17	24	31	
Fr	4	11	18	25		
Sa	5	12	19	26		
Su	6	13	20	27		

• September •

Mo	1	8	15	22	29	
Tu	2	9	16	23	30	
We	3	10	17	24		
Th	4	11	18	25		
Fr	5	12	19	26		
Sa	6	13	20	27		
Su	7	14	21	28		

• November •

Mo		3	10	17	24	
Tu		4	11	18	25	
We		5	12	19	26	
Th		6	13	20	27	
Fr		7	14	21	28	
Sa	1	8	15	22	29	
Su	2	9	16	23	30	

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14

• February •

Mo		3	10	17	24	
Tu		4	11	18	25	
We		5	12	19	26	
Th		6	13	20	27	
Fr		7	14	21	28	
Sa	1	8	15	22		
Su	2	9	16	23		

• April •

Mo		7	14	21	28	
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	
We	2	9	16	23	30	
Th	3	10	17	24		
Fr	4	11	18	25		
Sa	5	12	19	26		
Su	6	13	20	27		

• June •

Mo		2	9	16	23	30
Tu		3	10	17	24	
We		4	11	18	25	
Th		5	12	19	26	
Fr		6	13	20	27	
Sa		7	14	21	28	
Su	1	8	15	22	29	

• August •

Mo		4	11	18	25	
Tu		5	12	19	26	
We		6	13	20	27	
Th		7	14	21	28	
Fr	1	8	15	22	29	
Sa	2	9	16	23	30	
Su	3	10	17	24	31	

• October •

Mo		6	13	20	27	
Tu		7	14	21	28	
We	1	8	15	22	29	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	
Fr	3	10	17	24	31	
Sa	4	11	18	25		
Su	5	12	19	26		

• December •

Mo	1	8	15	22	29	
Tu	2	9	16	23	30	
We	3	10	17	24	31	
Th	4	11	18	25		
Fr	5	12	19	26		
Sa	6	13	20	27		
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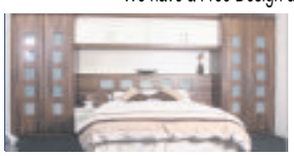

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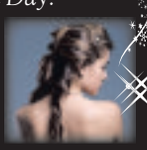

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What's On!

Festive fun with Cerys

Cerys Matthews
Town Hall, Birmingham

THERE are two words which sum up a Cerys Matthews show, great fun. The Welsh singer/songwriter and BBC Radio 6 presenter rarely stops talking, with the exception of when she is singing but she is such an enthusiastic and engaging character.

She opened the first of her two sets on the banjo with a Woody Guthrie song, Who's Gonna Shoe Your Pretty Little Feet?, Matthews' valley spring tones filled the Town Hall with a haunting version of the tune.

Most of her songs have a lengthy introduction and she openly boasted that the longest preamble she has done to date was at the nearby Glee Club, where she chatted for 21 minutes between songs.

When she finally got around to singing Johnny Come Lately, from her Catatonia days, there was more than a hint of Kate Bush about her tones.

A Welsh language song Moliannwn came from her Hulla Baloo album which is totally in Welsh.

She treated the audience to Chardonnay, from her Cockahoop album, followed by a great version of Jingle Bells and a traditional Deck The Halls followed by a funky version of Ding Dong Merrily on High, again with the audience brought in to provide vocal support.

Danny Farragher

Gok glitz and giggles too in pantomime makeover

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Birmingham Hippodrome

MAKING his panto debut in Birmingham, fashion guru Gok Wan should be renamed Gok the giggler as he is obviously enjoying his pantomime makeover as much as the audience.

Judging by his vocal performance, a singing career is probably off the agenda but for glitz, glamour and celebrity wow factor, not to mention outfits that look like they've been designed for Ming the Merciless, Gok as the Man in the Mirror is most definitely on style.

Review by Leon Burakowski

Dragon

But he is only part of the ensemble that make Brume spectacular panto a surefire hit with lots of singing, dancing, slapstick and naughty humour – plus a fearsome flying dragon that looks more than capable of wolfing down seven dwarves and probably a hobbit too.

Gook not the only first timer in panto land, song and dance man Gary Wilmott shows there's nothing like a Dame to raise the fun factor. As Nora Crumble, the castle cook, he is the focus for some of the funniest routines and also brings a tear to the eye with a charming song about motherhood.

As Snow White, Over The Rainbow winner Danielle Hope, who has now played both Dorothy and Epoxide in the West End, is an excellent singer with the kind of smile that lights up a room and is dressed just like her animated Disney predecessor.

Despite this being her first panto too, Miss Hope could hold her own with showbiz and soap stalwart John Partridge who, as Prince John, gives 100 per cent in enthusiasm and energy.

This show also boasts two funnymen with ventriloquist and comic Paul Zerline and Brian Conley-lookalike Matt Slack as brothers Muddles and Oddson.

Or maybe that should be three, because Zerline puppet Sam seems to have a life of his own, despite a technical hitch on press night that rubbed a little magic off the puppet's big moment.

Completing the package is former The Colbys and Dynasty star Stephanie Beacham as a superbly hissable wicked queen – important enough to have Gok as her personal style consultant – and the magnificent seven themselves. The dwarves are not played by the height-challenged but seven actors in ingenious, hilarious costumes that must leave them with very sore knees.

All in all, this year's Hippodrome panto is like a Gok makeover – fab-u-lous – and it continues until February 2.

Wicked Queen Sadista (Stephanie Beacham) puts a spell on Oddjob (Matt Slack) in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at BirminghamHippodrome

Gok Wan as The Man in the Mirror

Danielle Hope as Snow White

Music from around world

Magical Christmas Tree Show, Newhampton Folk Club

IF YOU are bold enough to sing House of the Rising Sun to the tune of Little Town of Bethlehem and Rock Around the Clock in mediaeval Middle English then, if only for novelty value, you are worth listening to.

The one thing you can say about the trio Chris Parkinson, Pete Morton and Emily Sanders, who was standing in for the ill Maggie Boyle, is their festive may not be traditional but it's damn good entertainment. They opened with The Mountain Road and Christmas Eve with Parkinson on melodeon, Morton guitar and Sanders on fiddle. Right from the off, they had come to have a good time.

The magical Christmas tree of the title was a rather pathetic looking specimen but it was really only there to let the audience pick scrolls from the branches which had instructions for the group. One such was for music from around the world. Parkinson opened with a Moldova tune on accordion then Morton took over singing Malaika, which means angel in Swahili, and Sanders played a gorgeous version of Hava Nagila on fiddle.

Sanders put on clogs to give a traditional dance to the tune of Byker Hill. Things turned surreal as Morton picked up a tune which started as Greensleeves but moved into the Middle Ages version of Rock Around The Clock. You have to hear it to really appreciate it. This was the last show of 2013 for the folk club but thankfully it will be back later this year.

DF

PUZZLER PAGE SOLUTIONS

The puzzle page was not carried for the weeks of December 19 and December 26. So that our readers can check their answers we have listed below the solutions to the puzzle page carried on December 12 (No 251).

CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Marksmanship; 7 Train; 8 Chair; 9 Run; 10 Malingers; 11 Accent; 12 Parade; 15 Martially; 17 Tea; 18 Nudge; 19 Tuber; 21 Considerable. Down: 1 Maltreatment; 2 Spa; 3 Annals; 4 Secondary; 5 Irate; 6 Cross-examine; 7 Tonic; 10 Manliness; 13 Aster; 14 Slated; 16 Radio; 20 Bar. QUICK - Across: 1 Confidential; 7 Allow; 8 Blear; 9 Tot; 10 Charlatan; 11 Recent; 12 Stream; 15 Adjourned; 17 Ass; 18 Drift; 19 Tacit; 21 Reprehension. Down: 1 Countermands; 2 Ill; 3 Enwrap; 4 Tabulated; 5 Avert; 6 Transmission; 7 Antic; 10 Conductor; 13 Exact; 14 Snatch; 16 Juice; 20 Can.

SUDOKU

6	2	8	3	5	7	4	9	1
3	5	1	4	8	9	6	2	7
4	7	9	2	1	6	3	8	5
7	8	2	1	9	4	5	3	6
1	4	5	6	2	3	9	7	8
9	3	6	8	7	5	2	1	4
8	1	4	5	3	2	7	6	9
5	9	3	7	6	1	8	4	2
2	6	7	9	4	8	1	5	3

CODEWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	D	Y	C	Z	F	E	O	P	M	B	A	Q
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	U	R	S	V	K	X	L	I	G	J	W	H

● For this week's puzzler turn to Page 42

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 4.01.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Catherine Tate

Catherine Tate's Nan
BBC1, 9.30pm

It's been a while since we saw Catherine Tate heading up her own series. Not that she hasn't been busy; in recent years she's had a stint as a Doctor Who companion, been a regular in the American version of The Office and starred alongside David Walliams in Big School. But now she's about to resurrect one of the comedy characters who helped to make her name – Joanie Taylor, better known as Nan. Her grandson Jamie is in Africa, so to lend her a hand she's got a new friend, Alice, who doesn't know what she's letting herself in for...

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the opening day of the tournament. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Frozen Planet. (R)

6.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.30 Celebrity Mastermind. With Hal Cruttenden, Clare Perkins, Sophie Hosking and Huw Stephens.

7.00 Pointless Celebrities. Featuring actors from Grange Hill, Waterloo Road and The Demon Headmaster.

7.50 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. New series. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers compete by listing as much as they know about given subjects. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

8.40 Casualty. Fletch witnesses an explosion at a bar and realises the man who accused him of assault is trapped inside the building.

9.30 Catherine Tate's Nan. The character returns in a one-off comedy special.

10.05 BBC News; Weather.

10.25 Film: Little Fockers. (2010) Premiere. Comedy sequel, starring Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro; National Lottery Update.

11.55 Film: Romance & Cigarettes. (2005) Musical drama, starring James Gandolfini.

1.35 Weatherview. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Film: My Fake Fiance. (2009) **7.30 Film:** Stick It. (2006) **9.10** Life on Earth. (R) **10.05** Life on Earth. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.45** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **1.30 Film:** The Horse Whisperer. (1998) **4.10** Coast. **4.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Further coverage of the opening day of the tournament. **5.30** James May's Toy Stories: The Motorcycle Diary. Building a motorbike and sidecar entirely out of Meccano. (R)

6.30 Flog It! Valuing items in Malvern, Worcestershire. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. Godfrey is accused of cowardice. (R)

8.00 Morecambe & Wise: Leading Ladies. Penelope Keith presents a compilation of highlights from the comedy duo's shows featuring appearances by female stars of stage and screen. (R)

9.00 Dave Allen: God's Own Comedian. A look at the life, career and legacy of the Irish comedy writer and performer, featuring interviews with family and friends and rare archive material. (R)

10.00 Dave Allen: The Immaculate Selection. Memorable routines by the comedian.

11.00 Dave Allen in Search of the English Eccentric. Documentary, first shown in 1974. (R)

11.55 Darts: BDO World Championships. Action from the opening day at the Lakeside Country Club.

12.45 Darts Extra. **2.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.15** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Victorious. **9.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** The Chase. (R) **12.40** Midsomer Murders. (R) **2.45** Show Me the Telly. (R) **3.45** You've Been Framed! Featuring golfing mishaps. (R) **4.15** Regional Programme; Weather. **4.30** ITV News; Weather. **4.45** Live FA Cup Football. Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 5.15pm). Coverage of the third-round encounter at the Emirates Stadium, as the north London rivals meet in an eye-catching tie.

7.20 Splash! New series. Vernon Kay, Gabby Logan and Tom Daley return with the celebrity diving contest.

8.50 Take Me Out. New series. An IT consultant, an entrepreneur, a daredevil and a student take part.

9.50 The Jonathan Ross Show. New series. The host subjects another batch of celebrity guests to no-holds-barred questioning.

10.50 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 FA Cup Football Highlights. Action from the third round, with fixtures including Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur, Wigan Athletic v Milton Keynes Dons and Macclesfield Town v Sheffield Wednesday.

12.35 Jackpot247. **3.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** Little Wolf's Book of Badness. (R) **6.35 Film:** Arctic Tale. (2007) **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The American Football Show. **10.00** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **10.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Jamie's Festive Feast. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 Come Dine with Me. Jane Welch hosts the final dinner party in west London. (R)

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Speed with Guy Martin. The motorcycle racer takes part in four adrenaline-fuelled challenges, beginning with an attempt to break the British record for outright speed on a bicycle. (R)

8.00 New Secrets of the Terracotta Warriors – Secret History. Recent discoveries about China's Terracotta Army, an extraordinary collection of ceramic sculptures unearthed in 1974 and dating back more than 2,000 years. (R)

9.00 Film: Robin Hood. (2010) An archer returning from the crusades faces a plot by a traitorous knight to aid a French conquest of England. Adventure, with Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett.

11.45 Charlie Brooker's How Videogames Changed the World. The broadcaster delves into the history of the games industry. (R)

1.40 Fresh Meat. (R) **2.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.30** Suburgatory. **4.50** 90210. **5.35** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.35** Slugterra. **11.00** Jungle Babies: Tarsier Tails. (R) **11.30** Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch. (R) **1.25 Film:** Columbo: Try and Catch Me. (1977) **3.00 Film:** Columbo: A Case of Immunity. (1975) **4.25** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **5.25** Diagnosis Murder. (R)

6.20 Mr & Mrs Murder. New series. Australian detective comedy, starring Shaun Micallef and Kat Stewart.

7.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Two siblings confess to a schoolgirl's murder. (R)

8.00 NCIS. The team tries to prove Ziva had nothing to do with a political assassination carried out by her former Mossad partner – but has to tackle the case without Gibbs's guidance. (R)

9.00 NCIS. Against his better judgement, Gibbs comes out of retirement to help Fornell and his daughter by reopening the case of an escaped convict who is putting their lives in danger.

9.55 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous housemates' past 24 hours.

11.00 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. New series. Psychological analysis of the housemates' behaviour.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.05** True CSI. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Doctor Who: The Ultimate Guide **8.00** Top Gear **9.00 Film:** Die Hard with a Vengeance (1995) **11.00** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 Nasa – Triumph and Tragedy **8.00** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **9.00** The Bridge **11.00** Rock 'n' Roll Britannia

ITV2
3.20 Film: Junior (1994) **5.30 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **7.15 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **9.00 Film:** The 40 Year Old Virgin (2005) **11.20 Film:** Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason (2004)

ITV3
2.50 Housewife, 49 **4.40** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **11.00** Prime Suspect

ITV4
3.10 Film: Shootout (1971) **5.05 Film:** The War Wagon (1967) **7.10** Storage Wars **8.10 Film:** Police Academy 6: City Under Siege (1989) **10.00 Film:** Lethal Weapon 2 (1989)

E4
4.25 Film: Penelope (2006) **6.10 Film:** Meet Dave (2008) **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** The Waterboy (1998) **10.50** The Inbetweeners **11.55** 8 Out of 10 Cats

Film4
2.55 Baby's Day Out (1994) **4.45** Gambit (1966) **6.55** Employee of the Month (2006) Comedy, with Dane Cook, Dax Shepard and Jessica Simpson. **9.00** Easy A (2010) A teenage girl lies about her non-existent sexual history, and uses the resulting rumours to become the talk of the school. Teen comedy, with Emma Stone and Penn Badgley. **10.50** Troll Hunter (2010)

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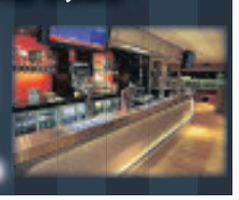

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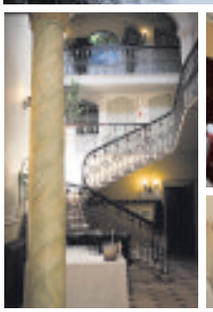

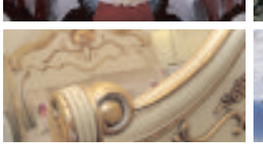

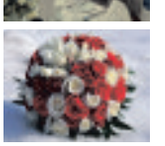

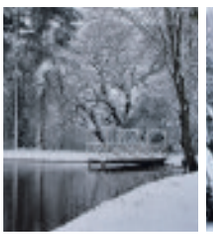

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What's On!

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CHOICE

Dan Snow

Operation Grand Canyon with Dan Snow
BBC2, 9pm

For some Karl Pilkington types who might not embrace the glory of nature, the Grand Canyon is just a big rocky hole in the ground. For others it is one of the wonders of the world. Given that camera crews from around the globe spend a chunk of each year filming it, there's little wonder we are occasionally treated to another HD-friendly documentary like this. Here, occasional One Show reporter Dan Snow joins forces with a team of scientists and historians to emulate explorer John Wesley Powell's 1869 expedition.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Moving On. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Helicopter Heroes. **3.15** That Puppet Game Show. **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Dolphins – Spy in the Pod. (R) **5.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Countryfile. John Craven joins the staff of Killerton House in Devon as they prepare for the year ahead. He also views the home's antique clothing collection and presents items from past shows.

7.00 Celebrity Mastermind. With Fred MacAulay, Mark Billingham, Georgia Henshaw and Charles Collingwood.

7.30 Antiques Roadshow. The experts gather at the home of the Royal Ballet School in Richmond Park, London. Objects include a longbow used in the Second World War and a sketch of Dylan Thomas's wife.

8.30 Sherlock. The brooding detective is kept busy as best man on John and Mary's wedding day – but it soon turns out his duties involve stopping a killer who is stalking the reception.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Mrs Brown's Boys New Year Special. The doting mother gets a new house guest – a homeless parrot. (R)

11.05 Film: Good Will Hunting. (1997) Drama, with Matt Damon.

1.05 Weatherview. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.10 Film:** Odette. (1950) **8.05** Monty Don's French Gardens. (R) **9.05** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.15** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **1.00** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the second day of the tournament. **5.00** Ski Sunday. **5.45 Film:** Catch Me If You Can. (2002) Fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks.

8.00 Nature's Weirdest Events. Chris Packham investigates reports of bears turning to a life of crime and fish that have contrived a way to attack birds on land. Last in the series.

9.00 Operation Grand Canyon with Dan Snow. The presenter joins a team of historians and geologists to recreate the pioneering 280-mile journey undertaken around the natural wonder by explorer John Wesley Powell in 1869.

10.00 Charlie Brooker's 2013 Wipe. A satirical look back at the events of the past 12 months, which included the horse-meat scandal, the death of Margaret Thatcher and the US government shutdown. (R)

11.00 Darts: BDO World Championships. Action from the second day at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green, featuring first-round matches in the men's and ladies' competitions.

11.50 Darts Extra. The BDO World Championships.

1.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.45** Holby City. (R) **3.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.15** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Victorious. **9.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** FA Cup Football Highlights. (R) **10.55** The Unforgettable Leonard Rossiter. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Live FA Cup Football. Nottingham Forest v West Ham United (Kick-off 12.00pm). **2.15** The Cube. (R) **3.15** Splash! (R) **4.45** The Celebrity Chase. With Sally Lindsay, Shaun Williamson, Barry McGuigan and Jenny Frost. (R) **5.45** Regional Programme ; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Dancing on Ice. New series. Past contestants get their skates back on for the final series.

7.45 All Star Family Fortunes. With Kimberley Walsh and Wayne Sleep.

8.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. New series. A double elimination.

9.00 All New It'll Be Alright on the Night. TV bloopers, with Griff Rhys Jones.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 Birds of a Feather. ITV's revival of the hit BBC sitcom. (R)

10.45 FA Cup Football Highlights. Action from today's third-round matches.

11.45 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 12th round of top-flight fixtures.

12.40 The Store. **2.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **4.05** Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.30 Film: Barnyard. (2006) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **1.00** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30 Film:** Edward Scissorhands. (1990) Tim Burton's fantasy, starring Johnny Depp. **5.35** Channel 4 News.

6.05 Deal or No Deal. High-stakes game show, with Noel Edmonds.

7.00 Shipping Wars. Documentary following delivery firms that cater for the eBay generation, picking up and dropping off a wide range of complicated, seemingly un-shippable loads.

8.00 Speed with Guy Martin. For his second adrenaline-fuelled challenge, the racer tries to set the world record for riding a motorcycle on water, with the help of a Cambridge professor and marine engineers.

9.00 Film: Bad Teacher. (2011) Premiere. A cynical, hard-drinking teacher hopes to seduce a wealthy substitute, making an enemy of a squeaky-clean colleague. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz and Justin Timberlake.

10.50 Rude Tube: Welcome to 2014. Alex Zane welcomes in the New Year with 100 internet clips. (R)

12.55 Film: Waltz with Bashir. (2008) Drama, directed by Ari Folman. **2.30** Coming Up. (R) **3.00** How Not to Get Old. (R) **3.55** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.50** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **7.45** City of Friends. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Slugterra. **11.00** Jungle Babies: Tarsier Tails. (R) **11.30** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **12.30** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.30 Film:** Grounded. (2006) **3.15 Film:** Along Came Polly. (2004) **4.55 Film:** Made of Honor. (2008)

6.40 Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous. (2005) Comedy sequel, starring Sandra Bullock, Regina King and William Shatner. Edited for violence.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.

10.00 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2013. Countdown of the biggest showbusiness stories and scandals of the year. (R)

12.55 SuperCasino. **3.05** True CSI. **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Gruffalo **7.30** The Gruffalo's Child **7.55 Film:** 101 Dalmatians (1996) **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00 Film:** Starship Troopers (1997)

BBC Four
7.00 Britain by Bike **7.30** The Return of Colmcille **8.30** Apples, Pears and Paint: How to Make a Still Life Painting **10.00** Nigel Slater's Great British Biscuit **11.00 Film:** Elena (2011)

ITV2
2.00 Film: The Mighty Ducks (1992) **4.10 Film:** Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004) **6.05 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **8.00** You've Been Framed! **9.00** The Magaluf Weekender **10.00** I Am Britney Jean: Britney Spears' Road to Las Vegas **11.50 Film:** Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008)

ITV3
3.15 Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00 Film:** Changeling (2008) Fact-based drama, starring Angelina Jolie. **11.50** Cracker

ITV4
3.05 Film: Shalako (1968) **5.20 Film:** The Battle of Midway (1976) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **11.00 Film:** The Matrix Reloaded (2003)

E4
3.50 Rude(ish) Tube **4.45 Film:** Grease (1978) **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) **10.20** The Inbetweeners **11.30** 8 Out of 10 Cats

Film4
2.55 The Rugrats Movie (1999) **4.30** The Golden Compass (2007) **6.40** Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **8.50** 12 Years a Slave Interview Special **9.00** The Mechanic (2011) **10.50** 48 Hrs (1982)

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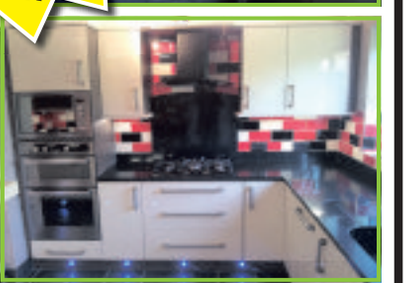

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What's On!

Film Choices

Monday
Hellboy II: The Golden Army, ITV, 11.20pm
The demon superhero, aided by a team from the Bureau of Paranormal Research and Defence, leads the fight against renegade elf Prince Nuada who is intent on reawakening an unstoppable robot army. Action fantasy sequel directed by Guillermo del Toro, starring Ron Perlman and Selma Blair. (2008)

Tuesday
Insomnia, BBC1, 11.15pm
A detective is sent to Alaska to investigate a murder during a month when the sun does not set. Sleep deprivation starts to take its toll, and he accidentally shoots his partner dead. He tries to cover it up, but the criminal they were hunting has seen everything and blackmails the cop into helping him escape justice. Thriller directed by Christopher Nolan, starring Al Pacino, Robin Williams and Hilary Swank. (2002)

Wednesday
Mimic, BBC1, 11.50pm
A scientist is shocked to discover a species of cockroach-hunting bug she created years earlier to eradicate a disease has evolved into the perfect killing machine. Horror from director Guillermo del Toro, starring Mira Sorvino, Jeremy Northam, Charles S Dutton and Alexander Goodwin. (1997)

Saw, Friday, Channel 4, 11.25pm

Thursday
Stolen Innocence, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman is rushed to hospital after giving birth to a still-born girl, only to be accused by the police of murdering the child. Demanding to see the midwife who was treating her at home, she discovers the woman was an imposter and is certain her baby has been kidnapped. Thriller, starring Gina Philips and Ellie Harvie. (2007)

Friday
Saw, Channel 4, 11.25pm
Detectives hunt a killer who kidnaps his victims and forces them to play sadistic games with life-or-death consequences. Meanwhile, two strangers wake to find themselves chained to pipes in a filthy, derelict bathroom – and at the mercy of the madman. Horror, written by and starring Leigh Whannell, alongside Cary Elwes, Danny Glover and Dina Meyer. (2004)

The Majestic, ITV, 3am
A screenwriter in 1950s America becomes disillusioned with Hollywood when he falls victim to the communist witch-hunts of the era, and heads out for a drive – but a car crash leaves him suffering from amnesia and stranded in a small town, where he's mistakenly identified as a Second World War hero. Frank Darabont's drama, starring Jim Carrey. (2001)

Pick of the Week

Fighting to become the champion of champions

If something's going to end, it may as well go out with a bang, right? Clearly those in charge of **Dancing on Ice, ITV, Sunday, 6.15pm** think that, because this, the last-ever series of the celebrity talent show, will feature the good, the bad and the ugly from the previous eight runs.

So appearing alongside genuinely talented skaters such as reigning champ Beth Tweddle, Ray Quinn, Kyran Bracken, Suzanne Shaw and Sam Attwater will be Joe Pasquale and Todd Carty. Neither of them were voted out first during their series, but they were memorable for perhaps the wrong reasons – Todd Carty in particular.

Co-host Phillip Schofield has suggested that because everyone taking part already has some skating experience, we should see a higher standard this time.

"Human ability means that in past years, some people will concentrate, work harder and get better by the time they get to the series.

"Even if you didn't want it to be that way, there will be someone who will be head and shoulders above the rest, and you think, does that mean we already have a winner? And that's not always the case, obviously, but with something like this, everyone can already skate."

Hmmm... maybe he's forgotten Carty's spectacular time on the ice – or perhaps he knows something about the former EastEnder that we don't...

Schofield also can't wait to see the professionals in action again too.

"I'm often frustrated because you get to see a professional skater, maybe on a commercial break, or a show that they do that's not Dancing on Ice, and you look at the unbelievable ability that they have," he says.

"Then they come on our show, and for the first six weeks, they're pushing somebody around the ice who can't skate, and you never get to see really what they can do. So that might be something new this series, we get to know how good our professionals are a little bit more."

Although you might think that most of the nerves rest with the competitors, Schofield admits that there's a lot of pressure on him and Christine Bleakley to get things right too.

"It's the sort of show you don't want to muck up. I just don't like making mistakes, I never have.

"You want to get it right because as a presenter, you want to seamlessly get people from one place to another without your performance being the thing that distracted them – unless it's something you wanted to distract them with."

Quinn has already been installed as the bookies' favourite to lift the champion of champions trophy, but the aforementioned group of ex-series winners, as well as Bonnie Langford, Zaraah Abrahams, Jorgie Porter, David Seaman, Gareth Gates and Gary Lucy, might have something to say about that.

And who will face the disappointment of leaving the show first – something they would probably all prefer to avoid?

At least nobody will have long to wait to find out; the results show is broadcast later in the evening at 8.30pm, when the lowest-scoring celebrities perform crowd-pleasing routines from their original series in a battle for survival.

Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley host Dancing on Ice, ITV, 6.15pm

Best of the Rest

Monday
The Bletchley Circle
ITV, 9pm
Anna Maxwell Martin, Rachael Stirling, Sophie Rundle and Julie Graham make a welcome return as the code-breakers-turned-detectives, whose rather homespun yet brain-busting approach to catching criminals makes a welcome change to the cerebral cops and forensic experts we're used to seeing. Here, their Bletchley Park links come to the fore again when they help former colleague Alice Merren, who's been accused of murdering her former lover, John Richards, after being found standing over his corpse with a smoking gun in her hand. The outcome looks pretty bleak for Alice, until her friends learn that Richards had another woman in his life.

Tuesday
The Taste
Channel 4, 9pm
Okay so television isn't crying out for another cooking competition – we're hardly in short supply, after all. However, given the names attached to this latest effort, it might be worth a shot. Multi award-winning food writer Nigella Lawson is back on telly for the right reasons, and she is joined by critically acclaimed chef Ludo Lefebvre and food maverick Anthony Bourdain in her search to find the best chef who can impress with a single spoonful of food. First thing's first, and the mentors sample the cooking of 25 hopefuls, who range from amateurs to professionals from some of Britain's best restaurants – and with that one spoonful of food, they're fighting for a place on the show.

Wednesday
Waterloo Road
BBC1, 8.30pm
The locals had better watch out as there's a new girl on site, and while she leaves some pupils wide-eyed, she also creates a few problems for the long suffering staff. Gabriella Wark (Naomi Battrick, a veteran of Doctors and recent movie Blood) may be smart, sassy and stunning, but her disruptive behaviour has already led to her being expelled from several schools. And now she has her sights firmly set on attractive new PE teacher Hector (Leon Ockenden), she's clearly not about to become a shy and retiring student just yet. Meanwhile, newlywed Simon (Richard Mylan) kicks off his new Resilience Education scheme, and incurs the wrath of Christine (Laurie Brett).

Thursday
Birds of a Feather
ITV, 8.30pm
Cheerful Cockney molls Sharon (Pauline Quirke) and Tracey (Linda Robson) are back to wring more laughs from Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran's winning formula, this time with the aid of fellow writers Gary Lawson and John Phelps. Sharon now works for Dorien (Lesley Joseph) full-time, while Tracey, as sole breadwinner, is left to pay all the household bills. Dorien offers to dip into her savings for some rent, but gets a rude awakening when she contacts the bank and discovers all her finances are being used for legal fees. A desperate Sharon and Tracey take Dorien to a car boot sale to raise some much-needed funds, but how much will they get for her beloved designer collection?

The Bletchley Circle, Monday, ITV, 9pm

Benidorm
ITV, 9pm
Fresh from his guest appearance in The Spa's festive special, ex-Brookside star Philip Olivier pops up here as Jason Gallagher, who turns up at The Solano in the hope of landing a job. Seeing as he's easy on the eye, Joyce offers him a job – which leaves Mateo fuming. Can there really be room for two handsome hunks behind the bar? Mateo might be pleased about receiving a helping hand when Tiger and Michael's get-rich-quick scheme leads to mayhem at the venue, while Clive's mind is preoccupied with his daughter Bianca, who's been seen wandering through Alicante airport in tears.

Friday
Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Mary Berry
ITV, 9pm
Mary Berry can certainly hold her own in the Great British Bake Off kitchen, but we're about to see how she fares under harsh studio spotlights and on the receiving end of a good Piers Morgan grilling. The 78-year-old food writer and TV presenter is the latest familiar face to sit in the hot seat and take a detailed look back through her life and career. As she opens up to Piers, Mary will be discussing her family life (and talks discipline methods used when her children were growing up), her role in the much-adored Bake Off series, and cooking cow udder pie for her first TV appearance more than 40 years ago.

Italy Unpacked
BBC2, 9pm
Christmas, and all the guilty indulgences that come with it, is over for another year, and our thoughts are finally turning to our summer holiday, so Andrew Graham-Dixon and chef Giorgio Locatelli are embarking on another jaunt around beautiful Italy. They're beginning in Liguria, where the rocky mountains and rugged coastline once inspired English poets of the Romantic era. The pair also visit Genoa before heading on to Cinque Terre (meaning 'five lands') where they hop on a boat to explore the scattered villages. Next up, it's on to Tuscany, before they conclude this leg of the trip with a look around Pistoia, Pisa and Livorno.

The Graham Norton Show
BBC1, 10.35pm
Graham is joined by a quartet of movie stars tonight, headed up by Hollywood heavyweights Robert De Niro and Sylvester Stallone, who talk about their new boxing film Grudge Match. Comic actor Jonah Hill shares his experiences of working with Martin Scorsese on The Wolf of Wall Street.

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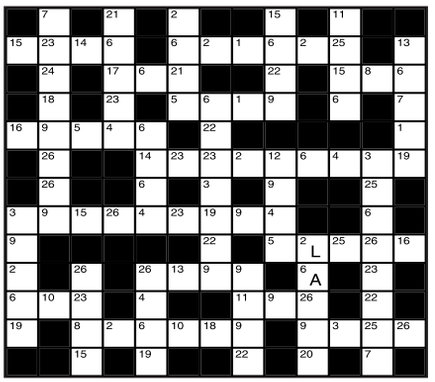
Puzzler

Brain Gym No.254

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



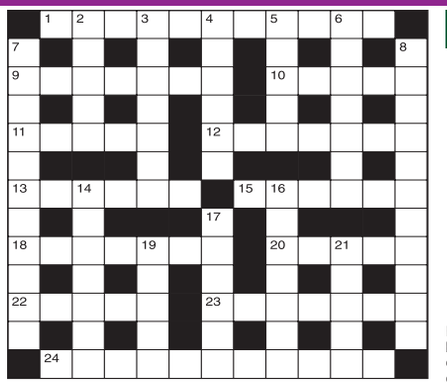
1	14
2 L	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6 A	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	H	F	G	D	I	K	C	V	M	L	S
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
W	B	A	Q	E	X	Z	J	T	Y	P	R	U

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Skilled craftsmen? (11)
9. Game, and how to score in it (7)
10. People act foolishly in it (5)
11. Stone used to make an attack (5)
12. Birds I hide in a ship (7)
13. Attacked and bombed perhaps (6)
15. A colourless individual (6)
18. Take pains to produce inconvenience (7)
20. Vessel carrying fuel from Loire (5)
22. All right, a sanctimonious creature (5)
23. Terminated the sitting, presumably (5,2)
24. Discerning writer and french sailor (11)

Down

2. Dislikes haste, perhaps (5)
3. Money from pirates (7)
4. Enjoy a flavour (6)
5. Presents one's natural talents (5)
6. Ends of routes vary in merit (7)
7. News being made? (11)
8. It records world-shaking events (11)
14. Rich fabric with an outstanding design (7)
16. The prospect for a guardsman (4-3)
17. Woolworker is something of a problem (6)
19. She's a new member of a union (5)
21. Like a ship taking a number to port (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Inconsiderate (11)
9. Dark cell (7)
10. Combine (5)
11. Deposit (5)
12. Paid up (7)
13. Strain (6)
15. Motive (6)
18. Envelop (7)
20. Come in (5)
22. Felony (5)
23. Odd (7)
24. Stocks and shares (11)

Down

2. Sharpened (5)
3. Unavailing (7)
4. Upright (6)
5. Confine (5)
6. Ambles (7)
7. Immaturity (11)
8. Starring part (7,4)
14. Disturbance (7)
16. Put to death (7)
17. Issue(6)
19. Corpulent (5)
21. Reliance (5)

Sudoku

3		9	7			4		
	2		6		9		5	8
	5		1					6
7			3					9
	1			6			4	
6			4		5			
1					3		9	
5			9		4		2	1
		4			6	5		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	7	5	3	9	1	6	2	4
2	3	9	6	5	4	7	8	1
6	4	1	2	7	8	9	5	3
1	9	7	4	2	3	5	6	8
4	5	2	8	6	9	1	3	7
3	8	6	5	1	7	4	9	2
9	1	8	7	3	6	2	4	5
5	6	4	1	8	2	3	7	9
7	2	3	9	4	5	8	1	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: Across: 1 Penelope; 5 Spar; 9 Tsar; 10 Distinct; 11 Cache; 12 Illicit; 13 Dentist's chair; 18 Seafever; 19 Toss; 20 Animate; 21 Chair; 22 Nigh; 23 Skittles. Down: 2 Enslave; 3 Earshot; 4 Pain in the neck; 6 Panacea; 7 Rotator; 8 Italic; 13 Disdain; 14 Nearing; 15 Ice-man; 16 Hatchet; 17 Inspire. QUICK - Across: 1 Contempt; 5 Serf; 9 Alas; 10 Contract; 11 Equal; 12 Imitate; 13 Defectiveness; 18 Ceremony; 19 Eddy; 20 Initial; 21 Offer; 22 Ever; 23 Eyeglass. Down: 2 Oblique; 3 Testate; 4 Provisionally; 6 Emanate; 7 Fitness; 8 Strife; 13 Decline; 14 Furtive; 15 Commit; 16 Needful; 17 Sadness.

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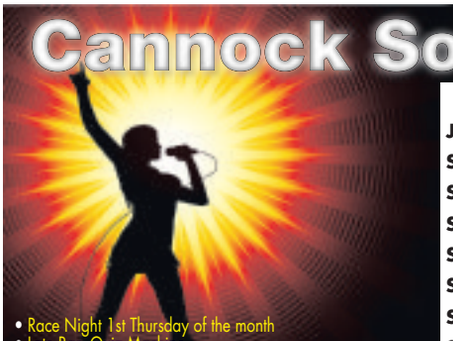

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Sat 18th TBA
Sun 19th BRIN
Sat 25th THE RUBIES TRIO
Sun 26th CARLA

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Property

Detached house on generous plot has a vegetable garden

This property in Fortescue Lane is on the market with Southwells for £245,000

THIS three-bedroom detached house is for sale in Rugeley and is on the market for £245,000.

The property in Fortescue Lane is available via estate agent Southwells.

There is a spacious entrance hall with Minton tiled floor, ground floor WC, open plan through sitting/living/dining room and feature 1930s open fireplace among its features.

The property occupies a generous sized plot.

Driveway

To the front there is gated access set behind a private hedge, a lawn and well established borders. The driveway leads to a separate garage and fully enclosed rear garden with patio area, lawn, separate vegetable garden, decked area, greenhouse and shed.

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- Garden
- Garage
- EPC Rating D

£750 pcm SORRY NO DSS

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SOUTHGATE
3 BED
- Unfurnished
- Semi Detached House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Garden
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- EPC Rating D

£625 pcm SORRY NO DSS

HEDNESFORD
STONE PINE CLOSE
NEW
- Unfurnished
- Link Detached House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Gardens
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Awaiting EPC

£550 pcm SORRY NO DSS

CHESLYN HAY
LEVESON AVENUE
REDUCED
- Unfurnished
- Semi Detached Bungalow
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Garden
- Garage
- EPC Rating D

£550 pcm SORRY NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
SQUIRREL CLOSE
NEW
- Unfurnished
- Semi Detached House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Garage
- Garden
- EPC Rating E

£550 pcm SORRY NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
HOLT CRESCENT
NEW
- Unfurnished
- Town House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Heating
- Parking
- Garden
- Awaiting EPC Rating

£525 pcm SORRY NO DSS

CANNOCK
PYE GREEN ROAD
- Unfurnished
- Semi Detached House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Parking
- Will accept small pet
- EPC Rating F

£515 pcm SORRY NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
DEAVALL WAY
REDUCED
- Unfurnished
- Town House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Heating
- Double Glazing
- Garden
- EPC Rating E

£495 pcm SORRY NO DSS

HUNTINGTON
ASHDALE CLOSE
- Unfurnished
- Town House
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Bathroom
- Heating
- Double Glazing
- Parking
- EPC Rating C

£475 pcm SORRY NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
ST JOHNS HOUSE
REDUCED
- Unfurnished
- Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Parking
- EPC Rating C

£450 pcm SORRY NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
ACORN CLOSE
NEW
- Unfurnished
- Town House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Heating
- Double Glazing
- Parking
- EPC Rating C

£415 pcm SORRY NO DSS

CANNOCK
OLD PENKRIDGE MEWS
- Unfurnished
- 1st Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 1 Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Parking
- EPC Rating C

£410 pcm SORRY NO DSS

HEDNESFORD
ST STEPHENS COURT
- Unfurnished
- Ground & Second Floor Flat
- Lounge
- 2 Bedrooms
- Heating
- Double glazing
- Allocated parking
- EPC Rating D

£395 pcm SORRY NO DSS

HEDNESFORD
PLANTATION ROAD
NEW
- Unfurnished
- First Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 1 Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Parking
- EPC Rating C

£385 pcm SORRY NO DSS

HEDNESFORD
ST STEPHENS COURT
- Unfurnished
- First Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 1 Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Heating
- Double Glazing
- Parking
- EPC Rating D

£350 pcm SORRY NO DSS

CANNOCK
WOOTTONS COURT
NEW
- Unfurnished
- Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 1 Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Heating
- Parking
- EPC Rating D

£350 pcm SORRY NO DSS

CANNOCK
WOODFORD END
- Unfurnished
- First Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 1 Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Heating
- Parking
- EPC Rating D

£330 pcm SORRY NO DSS

WIMBLEBURY
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NEW
- Unfurnished
- Ground Floor Flat
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- Shower Room
- Heating
- Parking
- EPC Rating C

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CHILTERN CLOSE, CHESLYN HAY

5 3 3 £425,000

Five bedroom detached house / Cul-de-sac location
Large driveway / Double garage / Private rear garden

WAGTAIL BARN, RUGELEY

EER :55/57 EIR:71/72

4 3 2 £389,500

Immaculate four bedroom barn conversion / High spec
modern additions / Large driveway / Garden & paddock

CHASELEY ROAD, RUGELEY

NEW

4 3 3 £385,000

Luxury four bedroom detached house / Electric gated
drive / Integral garage / Front & private rear gardens

LOWER ROAD, HEDNESFORD

6 1 3 £280,000

Large six bedroom semi-detached house / Integral
Single garage / Conservatory / Private rear garden

ROBINS CLOSE, CHESLYN HAY

4 3 4 £275,000

Well presented four bed detached house /Quiet cul-de
sac location / Conservatory / Parking for four vehicles

WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WRYLEY

4 3 2 £270,000

Four bedroom detached house / £5k stamp duty paid
Rear garden / Breakfast Kitchen / Offers in region of

CANNOCK ROAD, CANNOCK

4 2 3 £250,000

Four bedroom detached house / Refurbished through-
out / Single garage / Private rear garden / Driveway

CANNOCK ROAD, HEDNESFORD

EER: 33/44 EIR:28/37

6 3 3 £250,000

Extremely spacious six bedroom detached house with
large rear garden / Could be used for commercial use

HIGGLERS COTTAGE, CHESLYN HAY

3 1 3 £250,000

Spacious three bedroom bungalow set on 1/3 acre plot
Drive with parking for three vehicles / Large rear garden

HILL STREET, HEDNESFORD

4 2 2 £240,000

Four bedroom detached house / Driveway / Private rear
Garden / En-suite to master / Single garage / Guest WC

THE CLOISTERS, RUGELEY

EER :81/83 EIR:80/81

4 3 2 £220,000

Four bedroom detached house set in quiet cul-de-sac
En-suite to master bedroom / Offers over asking price

BROOKLANDS AVENUE, GREAT WRYLEY

NEW

3 3 2 £220,000

Three bedroom detached house / Private rear garden
Fully refurbished / Driveway / Separate single garage

CANNOCK ROAD, HEDNESFORD

Offers Over

4 2 3 £219,950

Four bedroom detached house with large private rear
garden / Recently renovated & refurbished / Driveway

BURNTWOOD ROAD, NORTON CANES

2 1 2 £209,950

Two bedroom detached house / Large rear garden
Conservatory / Separate single garage / Driveway

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£500,000	£9,000	£4,500	£4,500

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MAIN ROAD, BRERETON

3 1 1 £200,000

Three bedroom bungalow set in quiet village location
Large driveway / Private rear garden / Single garage

CONDOR GROVE, HEATH HAYES

EER :65/80 EIR:63/79

4 2 2 £195,000

Four bedroom detached house / Private rear garden
End of a quiet cul-de-sac / Integral garage

OLD FALLOW ROAD, CANNOCK

3 2 3 £190,000

Traditional three bedroom detached cottage / Private
rear garden / Private drive / NO ONWARD CHAIN

PINFOLD LANE, NORTON CANES

4 1 3 £185,000

Four bedroom semi-detached house / Parking for
several vehicles / Attic conversion / Conservatory

STAFFORD STREET, HEATH HAYES

NEW

3 1 3 £180,000

Three bedroom detached house / Private rear garden
Driveway / Integral garage / Good commuter links

CEMETARY DRIVE, CANNOCK

NEW

2 2 2 £180,000

Two bedroom bungalow finished to a high standard
Garden / NO ONWARD CHAIN / OFFERS OVER

TURF CLOSE, NORTON CANES

EER :68/75 EIR:64/71

4 2 3 £180,000

Four bedroom detached house / Corner plot / Quiet cul
-de-sac / Conservatory / Front & rear gardens / Drive

CAPERCAILLIE DRIVE, CANNOCK

3 3 2 £170,000

Three bedroom mid-terraced house / Separate garage
En-suite to master / Private rear garden / Car parking

WYRLEY CLOSE, BROWNHILLS

3 1 2 £160,000

Three bedroom link detached house / Single garage
Cul-de-sac / Private rear garden / Conservatory / Drive

LITTLEWORTH ROAD HEDNESFORD

EER :63/81 EIR: 62/81

2 2 2 £152,500

Well presented two bedroom semi-detached house
Conservatory / Drive / Front & private rear gardens

FORGE CLOSE, CHURCHBRIDGE

NEW

3 2 1 £140,000

Three bedroom terraced house / Private rear garden
Allocated off road parking / En-suite to master / OIRO

RAWNSLEY ROAD, HEDNESFORD

NEW

3 2 3 £140,000

Three bedroom semi-detached house on corner plot
Private rear garden / Driveway / Energy rating: D

CHURCH LANE, HIXON

NEW

2 1 2 £137,500

Three bedroom semi-detached house set on a corner
plot / Private rear Garden / Drive with ample parking

ALPINE DRIVE, HEDNESFORD

3 1 2 £130,000

Three bedroom semi-detached house / Private rear
garden / Large driveway / Garage / Energy rating: D

BROADMEADOW, ALDRIDGE

NEW

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2 1 1 £100,000

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Property

Three-bedroom detached has £130,000 price tag

This three-bedroom house in Staley Croft, Cannock, is on the market for offers based on £130,000.

The modern property has double glazing and gas central heating, entrance hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen and dining area, conservatory, three bedrooms and a family bathroom. There is ample off-road parking, car port and rear garden.

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Four-bed home lies in a quiet cul-de-sac

THIS four double bedroomed detached house is set in a quiet corner cul-de-sac location and comes with separate double garage.

On the market for £300,000, the house in Pine Tree Close, Burntwood has a reception hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, utility, dining room, study and guest WC. On the first floor are four bedrooms including an en suite to master as well as a family bathroom.

Externally the property offers adriveway with parking for several vehicles, separate double garage and private rear garden.

Call 01543 889410 or visit **www.lovettco.co.uk** to arrange a viewing.

Jayman

Cannock
01543 417559
lettings@jayman.co.uk

Lettings & Property Management

SUNRISE HILL, HEDNESFORD

Jayman Lettings & Management are proud to present this traditional semi-detached property, situated on Sunrise Hill, Cannock. The accommodation comprises of; entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden. Awaiting Energy Rating

£675 PCM

PYE GREEN ROAD, HEDNESFORD

Jayman Lettings & Management are pleased to present this three bedroom detached house briefly comprising; kitchen, lounge, three bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing, gas central heating and driveway. Deposit £900. Energy Rating D

£625 pcm

WOODSTOCK DRIVE, HUNTINGTON

Jayman Lettings & Management are proud to present this traditional detached property comprising; porch, lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, three bedrooms, shower room, driveway, front, side and rear gardens. Awaiting Energy Rating

£625PCM

CHAPEL STREET, NORTON CANES

Jayman Lettings & Property Management are proud to present this three bedroom semi-detached property comprising; lounge, diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, off road parking, garage. Awaiting Energy Rating.

£595 PCM

BROAD LANE, ESSINGTON

Jayman Lettings & Management are proud to present this traditional three bedroom semi-detached house, situated on Broad Lane, Essington. The accommodation comprises of; lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedroom's, bathroom, rear garden. Awaiting Energy Rating

£595 PCM

DORNEY PLACE, CANNOCK

50% OFF APPLICATION FEES FOR DECEMBER MOVE IN.
Jayman Lettings & Management are proud to present this modern new build apartment comprising; allocated parking, open plan lounge/diner, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, secure communal entrance doors. Awaiting Energy Rating.

£575 PCM

QUEEN SQUARE, CANNOCK

Jayman Lettings & Management are proud to present this two bedroom apartment, situated on Queen Square, Cannock. The accommodation comprises of; lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, allocated parking. Awaiting Energy Rating

£575 PCM

CANNOCK ROAD, CHADSMOOR

Jayman Lettings & Management are proud to present this traditional semi-detached property comprising; entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden, driveway. Energy Rating D

£575 PCM

HEATH VIEW, CANNOCK

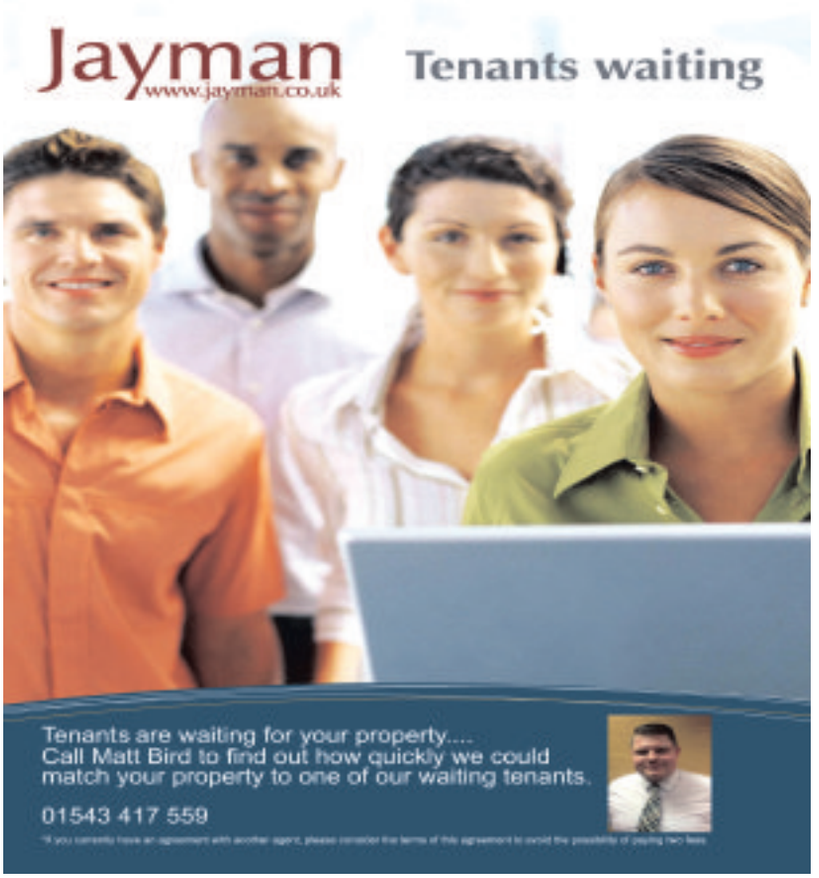
Jayman Lettings & Management are proud to present this traditional top floor flat. The accommodation comprises of; entrance hall, lounge/diner, modern kitchen, two bedrooms, modern bathroom, allocated parking. Energy Rating F

£500 pcm

CHURCH HILL MEWS, HEDNESFORD

Jayman Lettings & Management are pleased to offer this two bedroom apartment. This property briefly consists of - Allocated parking, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, double glazing. Awaiting Energy Rating.

£500 PCM



RUMER MILL ROAD, CANNOCK

Jayman Lettings & Management are pleased to offer this well presented two bedroom first floor flat with re-fitted kitchen. The property includes off road parking & garage. Awaiting Energy Rating

£475 PCM

STONEY CROFT, CANNOCK

Jayman Lettings & Management are pleased to present this ground floor apartment. The accommodation comprises of; entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. Energy Rating E

£450 PCM

GREENHEATH ROAD, HEDNESFORD

Jayman Lettings & Management are proud to present this one bedroom flat comprising of; lounge, kitchen, one bedroom, double glazing, allocated parking. Energy Rating D

£365 PCM

SUNBURY AVENUE, LICHFIELD

Jayman Lettings & Management are pleased to offer this well presented three bedroom detached family home. This property briefly consists of - Double Glazing, gas central heating, kitchen, lounge/dining room, rear garden, detached garage. No DSS, No smokers. Energy Rating C

£895 PCM

PHEASANT WAY, HEATH HAYES

Jayman Lettings & Management are proud to present this modern two bedroom apartment, situated on Pheasant Way, Heath Hayes. The accommodation comprises of; communal entrance, lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, allocated parking. Awaiting Energy Rating

£495 PCM

JONES CLOSE, FRADLEY

Jayman Lettings & Management are proud to present this detached property briefly comprising; entrance hall, kitchen, five bedrooms, bathroom, front & rear gardens, double garage.Awaiting Energy Rating

£1,450 PCM

CANNOCK ROAD, CANNOCK

50% OFF IN THE FIRST MONTH ONLY
Jayman Lettings & Management present this traditional two bedroom flat. The accommodation comprises of; entrance hall, lounge/diner, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom and off road parking. Energy Rating F

£500 PCM

HIGH ROAD, SHORTHEATH

Jayman Lettings and Property Management are proud to present this modern end terrace property, the accommodation comprises of; lounge, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, off road parking.

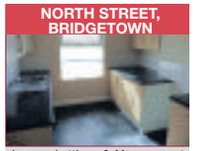
£550 PCM

CROSS STREET, HEATH HAYES

Jayman Estate Agents are pleased to offer to let this two bedroom first floor flat with electric heating. The accommodation comprises of lounge, fitted kitchen with cooker and fridge,two bedrooms and bathroom. Awaiting Energy Rating

£400 PCM

NORTH STREET, BRIDGETOWN



Jayman Lettings & Management are pleased to offer this one bedroom flat. This property briefly consists of - Kitchen, entrance hall, rear garden, shower room, lounge. Energy Rating E

£420 PCM

SANDPIPER CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

Jayman Lettings & Management are proud to present this traditional two bedroom semi-detached house, situated on Sandpiper Close, Cannock. The accommodation comprises of; lounge, kitchen, two bedroom's, bathroom, rear garden, allocated parking. Awaiting Energy Rating.

£475 PCM

TEDDESLEY WAY, HUNTINGTON

Jayman Lettings & Management are proud to present this detached property, situated on Teddesley Way, Huntington. The accommodation comprises of; entrance hall, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, front and rear gardens, garage.

£625 PCM

INGATHROPE ROAD, RUGELEY

Jayman Lettings & Property Management are proud to present this new build detached coach house, situated on Ingathorpe Road. The accommodation comprises of; entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear gardens. Awaiting Energy Rating

£595 PCM

MOAT WAY, HANDSACRE

A three bedroomed semi detached house, dishwasher and cooker included, Sorry no pets, no DSS. Deposit £675.00

£575 PCM

CHRISTCHURCH LANE, LICHFIELD

Jayman Lettings & Property Management are proud to present this two bedroom flat, situated on Christchurch Lane, Lichfield. The accommodation comprises of; lounge/diner, kitchen, two bedroom, bathroom. Energy Rating C

£550 PCM

LEAHALL DRIVE, CHASE TERRACE

Jayman Lettings & Property Management are proud to present this two bedroom flat, situated on Christchurch Lane, Lichfield. The accommodation comprises of; lounge/diner, kitchen, two bedroom, bathroom. Energy Rating C

£550 PCM

FRANCIS ROAD, LICHFIELD

Jayman Estate Agents are pleased to offer to let this three bedroom link detached house with gas central heating & double glazing. The accommodation comprises of lounge, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage and driveway. Sorry no dss, no pets, no smokers. Energy Rating D

£650 PCM

BARROW CLOSE, WALSALL

Jayman Lettings and Property Management are proud to present this two bedroom apartment, situated on Barrow Close, Walsall. The accommodation comprises of; open plan lounge/diner, kitchen, one double bedroom, bathroom and allocated parking. Awaiting Energy Rating

475 PCM

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cannock@jayman.co.uk

Chapel Street, Norton Canes

Jayman Estate Agents are delighted to offer for sale this three bedroom semi-detached house with double glazing and central heating, Briefly comprises of porch, hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room, bathroom, garage. Energy Rating D

Price £119,950

Westbourne Avenue, Cannock

Jayman offer this four bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising; porch, hallway, WC, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility room, conservatory, four bedrooms, family bathroom, garage, front & rear gardens, double glazing & gas central heating. Awaiting Energy Rating

Price £169,950

Victory Close, Cannock

Jayman offer this three bedroom detached property briefly comprising; entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, master bedroom, en suite, two further bedrooms, family bathroom, garage, driveway, rear garden, double glazing & gas central heating. Awaiting Energy Rating

Price £179,950

Poole Crescent, Brownhills

Jayman are pleased to offer for sale this five bedroom mid terrace property briefly comprising; entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, four bedrooms, family bathroom, further loft room, driveway to front, rear garden, double glazing and gas central heating. Energy Rating D

Price £139,950

Station Road, Hednesford

Jayman are pleased to offer for sale this two bedroom detached cottage with no upward chain briefly comprising; entrance hallway, lounge, refitted kitchen, two bedrooms and refitted bathroom. Energy Rating F

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Cypress Rise, Hazelslade

For sale this well presented two/three bedroom dormer bungalow. The property briefly comprises lounge, kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom and detached garage, front and rear gardens with a driveway. EPC Rating D

Price £170,000

George Street, Hednesford

Jayman Estate Agents offer this two bedroom plus loft room property comprising; hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms plus loft room, central heating, double glazing, rear garden & a driveway. Energy Rating C.

Price £145,000

Norton Terrace, Norton Canes

Jayman are pleased to offer for sale this two bedroom end terrace property briefly comprising; entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, front garden, double glazing and gas central heating. Energy Rating C

Price £115,000

Hamilton Close, Cannock

Jayman are pleased to offer for sale this one bedroom apartment briefly comprising; lounge, kitchen and bedroom with en suite shower room, double glazing and electric storage heating. Awaiting Energy Rating

Price £69,950

Cedar Grove, Great Wyrley

Jayman offer this detached property comprising; hall, lounge,wc, dining room, kitchen, utility, study, master bedroom, guest bedroom, two ensuite's, two further bedrooms, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, driveway, garage, front & rear gardens. Energy Rating D

Price £299,950

Abbey Street, Hednesford

Jayman offer this detached property briefly comprising; hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, conservatory, WC, three bedrooms, study. Fourth bedroom, ensuite, bathroom, double glazing & central heating. Energy Rating C

Price £234,950

Cherry Bank, Hednesford

Jayman are pleased to offer for sale this two bedroom semi detached bungalow briefly comprising; entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, two bedrooms, shower room. driveway to front, rear garden, double glazing and gas central heating. Energy Rating D

Price £139,950

Rugeley Road, Hazelslade

Jayman are pleased to offer this bungalow with extensive views briefly comprising; lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. The property also benefits from garage, front and rear gardens. Awaiting Energy Rating

Price £350,000

Station Street, Cheslyn Hay

Jayman are pleased to offer this two bedroom end of terrace property briefly comprising; lounge, dining room, cellar, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom, double glazing & gas central heating, shared driveway & rear garden. Energy Rating E

Price £125,000

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Pinfold Lane, Norton Canes

Jayman are delighted to offer this four bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising; hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, utility room, two bedrooms. family bathroom, two further bedrooms, garage, driveway to front & rear garden. Energy Rating D

Price £185,000

Hollingworth Mews, Cannock

Jayman are pleased to offer this two bedroom mid terrace property briefly comprising; entrance hallway, kitchen, downstairs WC, lounge, two bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway to front & rear garden. Energy Rating B

Price £130,000

Hollingworth, Cannock

Jayman are pleased to offer for sale this well presented two bedroom mid terrace property briefly comprises; guest WC, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden, double glazing and gas central heating. Energy Rating B

Price £130,000

Alnwick Close, Heath Hayes

Jayman are pleased to offer for sale a traditional three bedroom detached house. Viewing is recommended on this family home with enclosed rear garden, open plan living areas, and en-suite to the master bedroom. EPC Rating E

Price £149,995

Dorchester Road, Cannock

Detached property comprises; hall, w.c, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, conservatory, bathroom, four bedrooms, front & rear gardens & driveway. NO CHAIN.Energy Rating D.

Price £245,000

Stoney Croft, Cannock

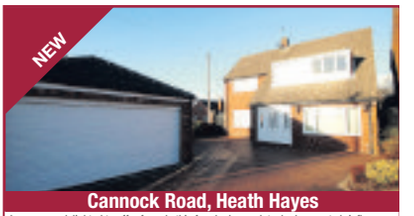
Jayman offer for sale this two bedroom end terrace briefly comprises; entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, allocated parking to the front of the property and rear garden. Awaiting Energy Rating

Price £119,950

Railway View, Hednesford

Jayman offer this four bedroom link detached property briefly comprising; hall, guest WC, kitchen, lounge, dining room, conservatory, master bedroom, en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, rear garden & garage. Energy Rating C

Price £199,950



Cannock Road, Heath Hayes

Jayman are delighted to offer for sale this four bedroom detached property briefly comprising; porch, hall, WC, kitchen/diner, lounge, sitting room, four bedrooms, bathroom, driveway to front, double garage, double glazing & gas central heating. Energy Rating C

Price £249,950

Stoney Lea Road, Cannock

Jayman are offering for sale this two bedroom bungalow briefly comprises; entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, utility room, two bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden, double glazing and gas central heating. Energy Rating D

Price £159,950

Goods Station Way, Penkridge

Jayman offer for sale this three bedroom detached property briefly comprises; hall, WC, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens and a garage. Awaiting Energy Rating,

Price £174,950

Wimblebury Road

Jayman offer for sale this detached property briefly comprising; porch, hall, WC, lounge/diner, kitchen, utility, conservatory, master bedroom, en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway, rear garden & garage. Awaiting Energy Rating

Price £199,950

Earlswood Way, Cannock

Jayman are pleased to offer for sale this five bedroom detached property property briefly comprising; entrance hall, guest WC, kitchen/diner/ lounge, five bedrooms, two en suite's, family bathroom, double glazing and gas central heating. Energy Rating B

Price £295,000

Huntington Terrace Road, Cannock

Jayman Estate Agents are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom detached property briefly comprising; Hall, Downstairs WC, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens & Driveway. Energy Rating E

Price £169,950

Station Road, Hednesford

Jayman are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom detached property briefly comprising; hall, kitchen, lounge/diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway, garage, front & rear gardens, double glazing & gas central heating. Energy Rating E

Price £165,000

Dorney Place, Cannock

Jayman are pleased to offer for sale this two bedroom apartment briefly comprising; hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazing, gas central heating & an allocated parking space. Energy Rating B

Price £99,500

Lockside, Churchbridge

Jayman are pleased to offer two 25% shared ownership end terraced properties (different percentages available) which briefly comprises; hall, WC, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden, double glazing and gas central heating. Energy Rating B

Price £31,875

Lockside, Churchbridge

Jayman are pleased to offer two 50% shared ownership mid terraced properties (different percentages available) which briefly comprises; hall, WC, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden, double glazing and gas central heating. Energy Rating B

Price £63,750

Hednesford Road, Heath Hayes

Jayman are delighted to offer for sale with no upward chain this Two bedroom end terrace briefly comprising; Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom. To the first floor two Bedrooms and two further rooms. Energy Rating F

Price £79,950

Brook Road, Cheslyn Hay

Jayman offer for sale this four bedroom detached bungalow briefly comprising; porch, hall, WC, lounge, kitchen, utility room, conservatory, four bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden, garage, double glazing, gas central heating, outdoor swimming pool. Energy Rating D

Price £270,000

Watling Street, Gailey

Jayman Estate Agents are delighted to offer for sale with no upward chain this 3 bedroom semi detached bungalow briefly comprises entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, master bedroom, two further bedrooms, front and rear gardens and a driveway. Energy Rating D

Price £209,950

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11 Plate Renault Clio 1.2 TCe Gt Line TomTom 5dr	£7,499	£6,799
62 Plate Renault Clio 2.0 Renaultsport 3dr	£12,999	£11,999
60 Plate Renault Megane 1.6 I-Music 5dr	£7,499	£6,999
60 Plate Renault Megane S/t 1.5 DCi Dynamique TomTom	£9,299	£8,699
60 Plate Renault Megane 1.6 Dynamique TomTom 3dr	£8,799	£7,999
61 Plate Renault Megane 1.6 Dynamique TomTom 5dr	£8,399	£7,999
62 Plate Renault Megane 1.5 DCi Dynamique TomTom 5dr	£10,999	£9,999
62 Plate Renault Megane 1.5 DCi Dynamique TomTom 5dr	£10,999	£9,999
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13 Plate Renault Megane S/t 1.6 DCi 130 Gt TomTom 5dr	£13,999	£12,999
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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Greenhous DAF going green with solar panels

GREENHOUS has further enhanced its green credentials with the recent installation of solar panels at the DAF Willenhall site.

The Shropshire and West Midlands based Motor Group has reinforcedit-seco-friendly reputation once again with this latest development.

The solar panels were supplied by Loryan Renewable Engineering, based in Stafford, and more than 170, 285w Neon LG solar modules were installed at the Greenhous Willenhall depot. The system will generate a huge 44,000 kwhr per year and will power a large proportion of the sites energy usage.

Wayne Fletcher, service director at Greenhous DAF Willenhall, said: "As a large company, we are very aware of our carbon footprint and the use of our energy resources. We have been doing everything we can in recent years to reduce our impact on the environment.

Lee Naylor, of Loryan, and DAF service director Wayne Fletcher

Energy

"Prior to the solar panels, we went through the process of looking at our energy usage in order to work out how best to reduce it. Subsequently, we changed the lighting system throughout the whole site including parts, workshop and offices by fitting low energy light units that rely on sensors.

"Having done this, we felt the next step for us in continuing our eco-development was to introduce solar panels. Having such a big premises with a large energy consumption, it made sense for us to consider generating our own energy, not just to remain eco-friendly but also to save money."

Suppliers of the panels were Loryan Renewable Engineering, a company founded by experienced engineers that delivers bespoke renewable engineering solutions for the agricultural, commercial, industrial and domestic sectors.

The company prides itself on being one of the few specialist renewable engineering installers in the UK market with the ability to cater for all green energy needs. They offer tailored, bespoke engineered solutions that range from preliminary consultancy to installation and future service.

Lee Naylor, managing director of Loryan, said: "It is great that Greenhous are so keen to make changes to the way they operate in order to reduce their impact on the environment. We have a strong company ethos that reflects this and it has been a pleasure providing a successful solar installation for another likeminded company."

Wayne concluded: "We are really pleased with how the solar panels have turned out. The installation has made a real impact on our energy usage as well as the amount of money we are spending.

"In the first three months that the system has been operating, we have saved the equivalent CO2 as travelling over 21,000 kilometres in a car or planting 83 trees.

"It is great to know that we are doing our bit to help the environment and we will always continue looking for ways to improve our carbon footprint throughout the company."

Shot in arm for electric vehicles from BMW i3

THE i3 is a big deal, not just for BMW but also for the electric car industry.

Boasting an innovative approach to design, construction and its underlying technology, this could be the car to give the electric car market the shot in the arm it needs to make the move from niche to mainstream status.

To date, early adopters have helped drive interest in electric transport. BMW is clearly keen to tap into this buyer demographic; witness the i3's futuristic looks and the car-maker's efforts at community building with a comprehensive smartphone app that can remotely monitor your pride and joy.

The bottom line is a carbon composite shell wrapped in funky-looking panels and room for four inside the radically styled, by current standards, cabin. Wood trim blends well with the car's exposed composite shell and the liberal use of natural fibres for door panels and the top of the fascia.

BMW's i3 has an innovatve approach to design, construction and technology

Thankfully

Still, this window dressing would all be for nought if the i3 failed to deliver the goods in the real world. Thankfully it's not, as the electric BMW offers possibly the most rounded driving and ownership experience to date. Granted, progress is rapid in the electric car sector, but the i3 behaves more, well, car-like than most.

Interestingly, BMW has retained its trademark rear-wheel drive layout for the i3. At a whisker under four metres, it's a genuine compact car, and this is reflected in its agility around town and its Black Cab-rivalling turning circle. The i3's narrow section tyres also play a part, plus they contribute towards the car's slippery aerodynamic properties. With BMW's clean-sheet approach to design comes the ability to place the batteries, a 230kg slab of lithium-ion power, under the car's flat floor.

This ensures maximum occupant space in the cabin, a decent size boot and a positive effect on the car's handling. The 170 horsepower electric motor also plays a significant part in the i3's overall performance.

And you can't talk about batteries without covering the practicalities of range. BMW previously conducted detailed research with volunteers and fleets of electric 1 Series and Mini models to observe driver behaviour.

As you'd expect, although the mainly urban journeys were frequent, they were short. With that in mind, a real world range of around 100 miles isn't so bad.

Although different eco-centric driving modes can be selected to maximise driving range, the i3's in-built brake regeneration properties can return a meaningful amount of charge to the battery over the course of a journey.

You need to lay off the brake pedal though, as simply easing off the throttle at urban speeds is enough to bring the i3 to a steady yet prompt halt. While that's happening, the i3's battery is getting a small but useful top up. Conversely, lean hard on the throttle and you can experience a 1 Series diesel level of brisk acceleration.

The ability to drive almost exclusively using just one pedal aside, the i3 delivers a surprisingly conventional driving experience. Largely familiar controls, a lofty driving position, good visibility and a high level of refinement go a long way to justifying the car's premium price tag and ensuring its place within the BMW family.

Of course, the financial aspect of the car should be equally appealing. The absence of road tax and fuel liabilities rank high alongside the ability to charge the car for very little – overnight via a domestic electricity supply, and a matter of hours when connected to a high output wall box or public recharging point.

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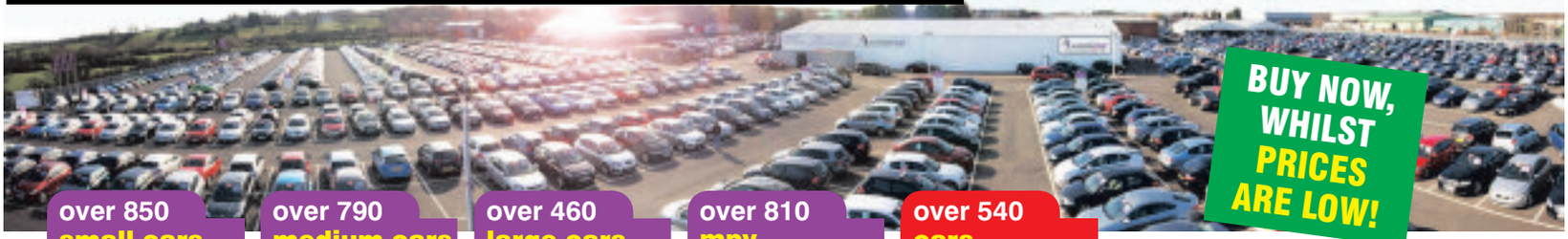

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10/60	Vaux Astra 1.6 VVT Elite 5dr A	£8,999
10/10	Vaux Astra 1.6 VVT Exclusiv 5dr	£7,299
10/10	Vaux Astra 1.6 VVT Exclusiv Alloys	£6,999
10/10	Vaux Astra 1.6 VVT Life 5dr	£6,199
10/60	Vaux Astra 1.6 VVT Life 5dr	£6,299
10/60	Vaux Astra 1.6 VVT SE 5dr	£9,199
13/13	Vaux Astra 1.6 VVT SE 5dr	£10,999
10/60	Vaux Astra 1.6 VVT SRi 5dr	£8,599
10/60	Vaux Astra 1.6 VVT SRi 5dr	£9,699
13/62	Vaux Astra 1.6 VVT SRi 18in alloys	£10,699
12/12	Vaux Astra 1.6 VVT SRi Vx-line 5dr	£11,199
10/60	Vaux Astra 1.7 CDTi 125 ecoFLEX E	£9,499

09/09 Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi Titanium 5dr as seen on TV 09 PLATE

price when new **£19005**
you save **£11006** our price **£7999**

08/08	Vaux Astra 1.8 VVT SRi 5dr	£5,799
10/60	Vaux Astra 2.0 CDTi 160 Elite 5dr	£9,999
10/60	Vaux Astra 2.0 CDTi 160 Elite 5dr A	£9,699
11/11	Vaux Astra 2.0 CDTi 160 SRi 5dr	£8,799
10/10	Vaux Astra 2.0 CDTi 160 SRi 5dr A	£8,999
11/61	Vaux Astra 2.0 CDTi 165 ecoF SRi	£10,999
13/13	Vaux Astra 2.0 CDTi 165 ecoF SRi 18	£12,999
12/62	Vaux Astra 2.0 CDTi 165 ecoF SRi	£12,299
11/61	Vaux Astra 2.0 CDTi 165 SRi 5dr A	£10,699
12/12	Vaux Astra GTC 1.4T SRi 3dr	£11,599
10/60	Vaux Astra Sp Hatch 1.4 Sp 3dr	£7,499
11/11	Vaux Astra Sp Hatch 1.6 VVT SRi 3dr	£7,999
08/58	Vaux Astra Twintop 1.6 VVT Sp 2dr	£5,999
10/10	VW Beetle Conv 1.9 TDi 2dr	£9,999
11/60	VW Golf 1.2 TSI S 5dr	£8,999
11/11	VW Golf 1.4 TSI Match 3dr	£11,699
10/60	VW Golf 1.6 TDi 105 B/M TechMatch	£11,999
13/62	VW Golf 1.6 TDi 105 S 5dr	£14,999
10/60	VW Golf 1.6 TDi Match 5dr	£9,999
10/60	VW Golf 2.0 TDi 140 GT 5dr	£12,999
10/60	VW Golf Plus 1.6 TDi B/M SE 5dr	£9,999
10/60	VW Passat CC 2.0 TDI 140 GT Nav	£14,499
08/58	VW Scirocco 2.0 TSI GT 3dr	£11,999
10/60	Volvo C30 1.6 SE 3dr	£9,399
10/60	Volvo C30 1.6D DRIVe SE Lux 3dr	£10,999
12/61	Volvo C30 2.0 R Des 3dr	£11,299

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11/11	Alfa Romeo Giulietta 1.4 TB Lusso 5dr	£8,799
09/59	Audi A3 1.6 Technik 3dr	£9,699
10/60	Audi A3 2.0 TDI 140 Sp 3dr (S/S)	£12,999
09/59	Audi A3 Spback 1.4 TFSI S Line S/S	£11,499
10/60	Audi A3 Spback 1.6 TDI SE 5dr	£11,299
11/11	Audi A3 Spback 1.6 Technik 5dr	£11,499
10/60	Audi A3 Spback 2.0 TDI 140 SLine SS	£12,499
10/59	Audi A3 Spback 2.0 TDI 170 P/Roof	£10,499
11/60	Audi A4 2.0 TDI 136 4dr (S/S)	£12,999
10/10	Audi A4 2.0 TDIe 136 4dr [S/S]	£12,699
11/11	Audi A5 Spback 2.0T FSI 180 SE Lea	£14,499
10/60	Audi A6 2.0 TDIe 136 SE 4dr	£15,999
12/61	Bmw 3 318d 2.0 Performance Ed	£15,999
10/60	Bmw 3 318i 2.0 SE 4dr	£11,599
11/11	Bmw 3 320d 2.0 EfficientDyns 4dr	£12,999
10/60	Bmw 3 320d 2.0 SE 4dr	£11,999
06/56	Bmw 3 325i 2.5 M Sp 4dr	£8,499
11/61	Bmw 5 520d 2.0 M Sp A Prof Media	£22,799
11/61	Bmw Z4 2.5 23i sDrive Highline Ed	£20,999
09/09	Citr C5 2.0 HDi VTR+ 4dr	£6,999
10/60	Ford Mondeo 1.8 TDCi Sp 5dr	£9,399
10/10	Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 140 T Sp Pk	£10,499
10/10	Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 140 Zetec 5dr	£8,599
12/62	Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 140 Zetec Bus	£14,499
11/61	Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 163 Zetec 5dr	£12,499
12/12	Ford Mondeo 2.2 TDCi T X Sp 5dr A	£16,499

12/61 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi 130 SE Nav 5dr as seen on TV 61 PLATE

price when new **£25330**
you save **£14531** our price **£10799**

10/60	Jaguar XF 3.0 V6 Lux 4dr A [Nav]	£17,499
08/58	Jaguar X-Type 2.2d S 4dr A	£9,999
10/60	Mazda Mazda6 2.2d 180 Sp 5dr	£9,999
08/08	Merc C C180K 1.8 Sp 4dr A	£11,999
09/09	Merc C C220 2.1 CDI Sp 4dr A Pan	£15,999
10/10	Merc CLC 180K 1.8 Sp 3dr A	£12,699
07/57	Merc SLK 200K 1.8 2dr	£10,999
11/11	Mitsub Lancer 2.0 DI-D GS2 5dr	£8,699
11/11	Peug RCZ Coup 1.6 THP 156 GT 2dr	£13,199
11/11	Peug RCZ Coup 2.0 HDi 163 GT 2dr	£14,499
10/60	Toyota Avensis 2.0 D-4D T4 4dr [Nav]	£10,499
11/11	Vaux Insignia 1.8 VVT Exclusiv 5dr	£7,799
10/10	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 130 Exclusiv	£8,399
12/61	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 130 SE Nav	£10,799
11/61	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 130 SRi 5dr	£10,999
10/60	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 ecoF Excl	£8,999
10/10	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 Elite Nav	£9,499
11/61	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 Exclusiv	£9,499
11/61	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 SE 5dr	£10,299
11/61	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 SRi 19in	£11,199
10/60	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 SRi 5dr	£9,299
11/11	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 SRi 5dr	£9,999
12/12	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 SRi 5dr	£11,699
12/62	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 SRi 5dr	£12,799
11/61	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 SRi A	£10,699
12/62	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 SRi Bluet	£12,799
12/62	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 Vx-lineR	£13,999
12/12	Vaux Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi Vx-line N	£12,999
08/08	Vaux Vectra 1.8 VVT Life 5dr	£4,299
13/62	VW Jetta 1.6 TDI B/M Tech SE DSG	£12,699
11/61	VW Passat 1.6 TDI B/M Tech SE 4dr	£12,999
10/60	VW Passat 2.0 TDI 110 Highline 4dr	£9,299
10/60	VW Passat 2.0 TDI 110 Highline 4dr	£10,699
10/59	VW Passat 2.0 TDI 110 R Line 4dr	£9,599
10/60	VW Passat 2.0 TDI 110 R Line 4dr	£9,599
10/10	VW Passat 2.0 TDI 110 R Line 4dr	£9,999
12/12	VW Passat 2.0 TDI 140 B/M Tech S	£12,499
11/11	VW Passat 2.0 TDI 140 B/M Tech SE	£11,999
11/61	VW Passat 2.0 TDI 140 B/M Tech SE	£12,999
12/12	VW Passat 2.0 TDI 140 B/M Tech SE	£13,999
08/08	VW Passat 2.0 TDI 140 Highline 4dr	£8,499
10/10	VW Passat 2.0 TDI 140 Highline 4dr	£10,799
10/10	VW Passat 2.0 TDI 140 Highline+	£10,999
10/60	VW Passat 2.0 TDI 170 Highline+	£11,699
10/60	VW Passat CC 2.0 TDI 140 S seat	£12,599
10/10	VW Passat CC 2.0 TDI 170 GT 4dr	£11,999
10/60	Volvo C70 2.0 D4 177 SE Lux G/tron	£17,899
10/60	Volvo S40 1.6D DRIVe SE 4dr	£9,999
12/61	Volvo S40 2.0 SE Ed 4dr	£11,399
10/10	Volvo S40 2.0D SE Lux 4dr	£9,999
11/61	Volvo S60 1.6D DRIVe R Des 4dr	£13,999
10/60	Volvo S60 2.0 D3 163 SE Lux 4dr	£12,999

over 810 mpv estates & 4x4/suv

11/61 Citroen C4 Grand Picasso 2.0 HDi VTR+ as seen on TV 61 PLATE

price when new **£22065**
you save **£10266** our price **£11799**

10/60	Audi Q5 2.0 TDI 143 Quattro 4WD	£20,999
11/11	Honda Cr-v 2.0 i-VTEC EX 4WD	£15,499
11/11	Kia Spage 1.7 CRDi 3 5dr Nav 2WD	£17,599
10/60	L/Rover Freelander2 2.2 Td4e 4WD	£14,299
11/61	Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi 110 Tekna 2WD	£11,999
10/60	Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi 106 Ace2WD	£10,999
11/61	Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 2WD	£11,499
10/60	Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Visia 5dr [2WD]	£8,999
11/61	Nissan Qashqai+2 1.6 N-Tec 2WD	£13,999
08/08	Suzuki Jimny 1.3 WT JLX 4WD	£5,999
09/09	Vaux Antara 2.0 CDTi S [4WD	£9,999
13/13	Volvo XC60 D4 2.0 163 R Des 2WD	£25,999
09/09	Audi A4 Avant 2.0 TDI 120 SE 5dr	£12,599
11/61	Audi A6 Avant 2.0 TDIe 136 S Line	£18,499
09/59	Bmw 3 Touring 320d 2.0 SE 5dr	£11,999
10/59	Chevrolet Lacetti Est 1.6 SX 5dr	£4,699
10/60	Ford Focus Est 1.6 Zetec 5dr A	£6,999
10/10	Ford Mondeo Est 2.0 TDCi 140 T 5dr	£10,499
13/62	Hyundai I40 Tourer 1.7 CRDi B/ Driv	£13,499
09/58	Jaguar X-type Est 2.2d S 2009 5dr A	£10,499
10/60	Merc E Est E350 3.0 CDI B/E A/garde	£20,499
11/11	Peug 207 SW 1.4 Active 5dr	£7,299
10/60	Peug 207 SW 1.6 HDi 92 S 5dr	£7,999
10/10	Peug 308 SW 1.6 HDi 90 S 5dr	£7,299
12/62	Ren Clio Sp Tourer 1.2 Dyn TomT	£7,999
12/61	Ren Meg Tourer 1.5 dCi 110 Exp 5dr	£9,499
12/12	Seat Ibiza Est 1.6 TDI Sprider 5dr	£10,799
11/61	Vaux Astra Est 1.3 CDTi ecoF Exclu	£9,999
12/12	Vaux Astra Est 1.6 VVT SRi 5dr	£9,999
10/60	Vaux Insignia Tourer 1.8 VVT SRi Nav	£9,499
10/60	Vaux Insignia Tourer 2.0 CDTi SRi A	£10,999
13/13	VW Passat Est 1.6 TDI B/M Tech S	£14,499
10/10	Volvo V50 1.6 D2 115 ES 5dr	£9,499
08/08	Chevrolet Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 5dr A	£8,999
11/61	Citr C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi 90 Excl 5dr	£8,499
09/09	Citr C4 G/Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+ EGS	£7,499
10/10	Citr C4 Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+ 5dr	£8,599
12/62	Ford C-Max 1.6 TDCi T 5dr	£12,999
10/60	Ford C-Max 1.8 TDCi T 5dr	£9,799
12/12	Ford Galaxy 2.0 EcoBoost T P/Shift	£17,499
13/13	Ford Galaxy 2.0 TDCi 140 Zetec 5dr	£19,499
11/11	Ford Grand C-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec	£12,499
10/60	Ford S-Max 2.0 TDCi 140 T 5dr	£14,299
11/11	Ford S-Max 2.0 TDCi 140 Zetec 5dr	£11,999
10/60	Kia Soul 1.6 CRDi 2 5dr A	£7,499
10/10	Mazda Mx-5 Conv 1.8 SE 2dr	£8,999
11/61	Nissan Note 1.6 N-Tec 5dr A	£7,999
10/60	Peug 3008 1.6 HDi 110 Excl 5dr	£9,999
11/61	Peug 3008 1.6 HDi 112 Excl 5dr	£10,999
12/62	Peug 5008 1.6 e-HDi 112 Allure EGC	£15,499
10/10	Ren Grand Modus 1.5 dCi 86 Dyn 5dr	£6,499
10/59	Ren G/Scenic 1.5 dCi 106 Priv 5dr [L	£8,699
10/60	Ren G/Scenic 1.6 VVT Dyn TomTom	£7,999
11/11	Ren Kangoo 1.6 Exp 5dr	£7,599
10/60	Ren Scenic 1.5 dCi 106 Priv TomTom	£8,999
10/10	Ren Scenic 1.6 VVT Dyn 5dr	£7,699
10/60	Ren Scenic 1.9 dCi Dyn TomTom 5dr	£9,299
10/60	Seat Altea 1.6 TDI 105 Ecomotive SE	£8,499
08/58	Seat Altea 2.0 TDI 170 FR 5dr	£7,999
10/10	Seat Altea XL 2.0 TDI 140 SE 5dr DSG	£9,999
10/59	Toyota Verso 2.0 D-4D TR 5dr	£8,999
10/60	Vaux Meriva 1.4 Active 5dr	£6,499
11/61	Vaux Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv 5dr	£7,799
10/60	Vaux Meriva 1.4 SE 5dr	£7,799
10/60	Vaux Meriva 1.4 SE 5dr	£7,499
11/11	Vaux Meriva 1.7 CDTi 130 Exclusiv	£8,299
10/60	Vaux Meriva 1.7 CDTi SE 5dr A	£8,699
10/60	Vaux Zafira 1.6 VVT Des 5dr	£7,999
12/62	Vaux Zafira 1.6 VVT Des 5dr	£10,499
10/60	Vaux Zafira 1.6 VVT Energy 5dr	£7,999
12/12	Vaux Zafira 1.6 VVT Exclusiv 5dr	£9,799
12/12	Vaux Zafira 1.7 CDTi 110 ecoFLEX D	£11,299
10/60	Vaux Zafira 1.7 CDTi 110 ecoFLEX E	£9,399
12/12	Vaux Zafira 1.7 CDTi 125 ecoFLEX D	£11,499
11/11	Vaux Zafira 1.8 VVT Elite 5dr	£8,999
11/11	Vaux Zafira 1.8 VVT SRi 5dr	£8,699
10/10	Vaux Zafira 1.9 CDTi 150 SRi A [XP]	£8,999
11/61	VW Touran 1.6 TDI 105 S 5dr	£11,999
12/61	VW Touran 2.0 TDI 140 SE 5dr	£13,299

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08/58	Chevrolet Matiz 0.8 S 5dr	£2,999
08/58	Suzuki Swift 1.5 GLX 3dr	£4,499
10/60	Citr C1 1.0 VT 3dr	£4,999
11/61	Proton Savvy 1.2 Style 5dr A	£4,999
08/58	Seat Ibiza 1.2 S 5dr	£5,199
07/57	Nissan Note 1.6 SVE 5dr	£5,399
10/60	Ren Clio 1.5 dCi 86 eco2 Ext 3dr	£5,499
10/60	Toyota Aygo 1.0 VVT-I Blue 3dr	£5,599
09/59	Vaux Astra 1.6 VVT Life 5dr	£5,699
10/10	Honda Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S 5dr	£5,799
08/08	Vaux Astra 1.8 VVT SRi 5dr	£5,799
09/59	Fiat Qubo 1.4 Dyn 5dr	£5,999
08/08	Mazda Mazda2 1.5 Sp 5dr	£5,999
11/60	Skoda Fabia 1.2 S 5dr	£5,999
08/58	Vaux Astra 1.9 CDTi 150 SRi 5dr	£5,999
11/11	Citr C1 1.0 VTR+ 5dr	£6,199
10/60	Vaux Astra 1.4 Life 5dr	£6,199
09/59	VW Polo 1.2 E 60 5dr	£6,199
11/11	Citr C1 1.0 VTR+ 5dr	£6,299
09/09	Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr [Sp Pk]	£6,299
12/62	Hyundai I10 1.2 Class 5dr	£6,299
12/12	Peug 107 1.0 Active 3dr	£6,299
10/10	Ren Kangoo 1.6 Exp 5dr A	£6,299
10/60	Vaux Astra 1.4 Life 5dr	£6,299
10/10	Vaux Astra 1.6 VVT Life 5dr	£6,299
10/10	Vaux Corsa 1.2 Exclusiv 5dr	£6,299
10/60	Hyundai I10 1.2 Style 5dr	£6,399
09/09	Vaux Corsa 1.4 Des 5dr	£6,399
10/10	Fiat Punto Evo 1.4 GP 5dr	£6,499
06/06	L/Rover F/lander 2.0 Td4 3dr 4WD	£6,499
12/62	Peug 107 1.0 Active 3dr	£6,499
11/11	Ren Clio 1.2 Exp 5dr	£6,499
11/11	Skoda Fabia 1.2 S 5dr	£6,499
10/60	Vaux Corsa 1.2 SXi 3dr	£6,499
10/10	Vaux Meriva 1.6 Des 5dr E/T	£6,499
11/61	Kia Picanto 1.0 2 5dr	£6,599
10/60	Fiat Doblo 1.4 Dyn 5dr	£6,699
10/10	Ford Ka 1.2 Zetec 3dr	£6,699
13/13	Suzuki Alto 1.0 SZ 5dr	£6,699
10/60	Vaux Corsa 1.2 Exclusiv 5dr	£6,699
10/10	Citr C3 1.4 VTi VTR+ 5dr	£6,799
11/60	Fiat 500 1.2 Pop 3dr (S/S)	£6,799
09/09	Ford C-Max 1.6 Zetec 5dr	£6,799
12/62	Hyundai I10 1.2 Active 5dr	£6,799
10/10	Mazda Mazda2 1.3 TS2 5dr	£6,799
10/60	Peug 207 1.4 Millesim 3dr	£6,799
10/10	Peug 308 1.6 VTi 120 S 5dr	£6,799
10/60	Skoda Fabia 1.2 SE 5dr	£6,799
11/11	Vaux Corsa 1.0 ecoFLEX Excite 5dr	£6,799
09/09	Ford C-Max 1.8 TDCi Style 5dr	£6,899
10/10	Citr C3 Picasso 1.4 VTi 95 VTR+ 5dr	£6,999
09/09	Fiat 500 1.4 Lounge 3dr	£6,999
09/59	Ford Fiesta 1.4 Style+ 5dr	£6,999
12/12	Ford Ka 1.2 Edge 3dr	£6,999
12/62	Hyundai I10 1.2 Style 5dr	£6,999
10/60	Kia Pro Ceed 1.6 2 3dr A	£6,999
08/58	Mini One 1.4 3dr [Pp/Pk]	£6,999
10/60	Peug 207 1.4 Millesim 5dr	£6,999
11/11	Peug 207 1.4 VTi 95 Sp 5dr	£6,999
10/60	Peug 207 1.6 VTi 120 Sp 3dr A	£6,999
09/59	Peug 308 1.6 VTi 120 Sp 5dr (P/Roof)	£6,999
10/60	Ren Clio 1.6 VVT Initiale TomTom 5dr	£6,999
10/60	Ren Wind 1.6 VVT Dyn S 2dr	£6,999
09/59	Toyota Auris 2.0 D-4D TR 5dr	£6,999
10/10	Vaux Astra 1.6 VVT Exclusiv Alloys	£6,999
10/60	Vaux Corsa 1.2 SE 3dr	£6,999
10/60	Vaux Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv 5dr	£6,999
10/60	VW Polo 1.2 S 70 3dr	£6,999

9.4% APR Representative

Representative Example: Cash Price £6999, Deposit £0, Total Amount of Credit £6999, Purchase Fee £150, Credit Facility Fee £150, Total Charge For Credit £1717.30, Total Amount Payable £8716.30, Initial Payment £290.27, 58 Monthly Payments £140.27, Final Payment £290.27, Duration of Agreement 60 Months, Representative APR 9.4% APR, Interest Rate (fixed) 4.05%. Written quotations on request – subject to status

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Motoring

Nissan's latest Qashqai redefining crossover

COMBINING innovation and exciting technology with intelligent design, the new Qashqai will build on the success of its two-million selling predecessor.

Yet despite setting new standards for technology, comfort and practicality, the Qashqai remains accessible to buyers considering a conventional hatchback or crossover. With prices starting from just £17,595, buyers can benefit from premium quality and some of the most advanced features on the market.

Nissan's philosophy of bringing premium features to the family car market is tried and tested. The exceptional success of the original model proves that buyers now expect Nissan to deliver sector-first innovations and fresh thinking in every key area.

The new Qashqai, on sale this month, is available in four familiar grades: Visia, Acenta, Acenta Premium and Tekna.

Visia models, priced from £17,595, come with a range of new features including automatic air conditioning, hill start assist, a five-inch colour HD infotainment screen, chassis control, TPMS (tyre pressure monitoring system) and speed limiter/cruise control all fitted as standard.

Acenta models continue the generous theme with a further list of premium features fitted as standard.

Priced from £19,145, these include dual-zone automatic air conditioning, premium leather steering wheel and gear knob, 17-inch alloy wheels and a luggage board system. Safety equipment includes front fog lamps, auto headlamps and rain-sensing wipers.

Both the Visia and Acenta models come with the option of a smart vision pack (£450) that adds Nissan's advanced safety shield system among other driver aids. Designed to enhance the safety of occupants, the pack incorporates front collision avoidance and traffic tign recognition.

Acenta Premium models start from £20,995 and feature a raft of comfort and safety technologies. These include new-generation NissanConnect infotainment system with DAB radio. A rear view camera is also fitted as standard, along with i-key start push button, parking sensors and a panoramic glass roof. Safety features include front collision avoidance, high beam assist and lane departure warning.

Technologies

Range-topping Tekna models – which start from £23,145 – feature an array of new-to-sector technologies that further highlight Nissan's lead in the crossover market. For safety, Tekna models benefit from Bi-LED headlamps, Safety Shield with Traffic Signal Recognition and High Beam Assist.

Tekna models also excel when it comes to design and technology features. All models are equipped with 19-inch alloy wheels, roof rails, part-leather seats, a large glass roof, heated seats, front and rear parking sensors and Intelligent key with engine start button.

The latest-generation NissanConnect system is also standard, including a seven-inch touchscreen display, DAB digital radio, Around View Monitor and smartphone connectivity.

A range of supremely efficient and refined petrol and diesel engines allows the new Qashqai to exceed the expectations of drivers no matter which powertrain is chosen. The line-up consists of four engines: two petrol and two diesel, with the option of two- or four-wheel-drive. Customers can also choose between manual and all-new Xtronic automatic transmissions.

Driving through a six-speed manual transmission, the entry-level 1.2 DIG-T delivers 115PS and generates 190Nm of torque. Despite its modest size, the 1.2-litre engine packs a real punch, offering sharper acceleration and greater flexibility than the outgoing 1.6-litre naturally aspirated engine.

Its lower weight and more fuel-efficient operation also mean it is considerably cleaner and more economical than the model it replaces. The 1.2 DIG-T engine emits 129g/km of CO (15g/km less than the outgoing 1.6-litre petrol unit), and has a fuel consumption figure of 50.4mpg.

Like all engines in the new Qashqai range, the 1.2 DIG-T is equipped with start/stop ignition as standard.

Set to join the Qashqai range in autumn 2014, the most powerful petrol engine will be the 1.6 DIG-T engine with 150PS.

With 240Nm of torque on offer, the 1.6 DIG-T delivers impressive low and mid-range pull, with excellent in-gear flexibility. Yet despite its strong performance, the range-topping petrol option retains impressive efficiency. Fuel consumption is 50.4mpg on the EU combined cycle, while COemissions are 132g/km.

The latest evolution of the award-winning 1.5 dCi 110PSdirect injection diesel engine is the cleanest and most fuel-efficient engine ever offered in a Qashqai with CO emissions of just 99g/km and an EU combined fuel consumption figure of just 74.3mpg.

The sixth-generation 1.5-litre dCi unit is smoother, more efficient and more refined than the outgoing engine. Thanks to a substantial re-engineering programme, the 1.5-litre dCi engine offers greater in-gear flexibility thanks to a 20Nm increase in torque.

Advanced

Positioned at the top of the Qashqai's diesel range, the 1.6 dCi 130PSis offered with the option of two- and four-wheel-drive. This unit is one of the most advanced diesel powerplants in its sector, with a number of technical innovations designed to maximise fuel consumption and reduce CO emissions.

In two-wheel-drive manual form, the 1.6 dCi has CO emissions of 115g/km and an EU combined fuel consumption figure of 64.2mpg. The Xtronic automatic version emits 119g/km and returns 61.4mpg, while the four-wheel-drive manual version has figures of 129g/km and 57.6mpg. Redesigned from the ground up, the new Qashqai has been created to meet the demands and expectations of next-generation crossover buyers.

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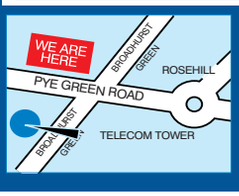

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The Infinit Q50 sharply styled and easy on the eye in either of the body styles

Infiniti wants to give the Germans a poking on their home turf starting with the Q50

Newest car brand may be ready to come of age

By Matt Kimberley

INFINITI has only been a separate company from its parent Nissan brand for a little more than a year now. And Infiniti cars have only been built at all since 1989.

Undeterred, the firm is going up against some of the toughest opposition in the car market in the mighty shapes of Audi, BMW and Mercedes, who dominate the European premium car market almost completely.

The Q50 is the spearhead with which Infiniti wants to give the big Germans a poking on their home turf. It's sharply styled and easy on the eye in either of the body styles. Sport trim looks surprisingly different from the front when you put it next to a more relaxed Premium-spec car, but in isolation both look strikingly – refreshingly – different to what's already out there. It's sized in between BMW's 3 Series and 5 Series, so it might just be a great catch-all compromise.

The interior design is good, too, with a large centre console giving a snug, comfortable feel to a cabin that isn't as open and spacious-seeming as some thanks to a windscreen and A-pillar sitting closer to the occupants than in rival cars. The console itself is dominated by two vertically stacked large screens; the top one recessed slightly into the surface and tasked with displaying the navigation system readout and visuals from the manoeuvring cameras (front and rear). Unfortunately this screen is tilted back significantly enough to be prone to glare, especially since it's not angled towards the driver in any way. If the sun is coming through the passenger side window it can be hard to see parts of the navigation readout.

The lower screen, mounted flush with the console and topped with a smooth, glossy plastic cover, is effectively the touch-screen control panel via which the driver can adjust the myriad settings and personalisation options. It is rather vulnerable to fingerprints, but it's quick to respond to touch and offers a clear, crisp app-style layout that anyone with a smartphone should feel right at home with.

Economical

Cabin storage is a mixed bag, with short-ish door pockets but a big central bin, which also houses two 12-volt power outlets, two USB ports, a 3.5mm jack and even a 'video in' socket to pipe pictures to the top screen – but not while you're driving.

Speaking of driving, you can have the Q50 as a diesel, which borrows Mercedes's slightly clattery but potentially very economical 2,143cc four-cylinder engine, or as a petrol-electric hybrid that uses the electric motor as a 'supercharger'. It works like a charm, too, giving the Q50S (the hybrid's special designation) an instant swell of torque low down in the rev range before the 3.5-litre V6 takes over to pump the overall power output to 360bhp.

In this guise the car excels in slow traffic under gentle throttle inputs, where the engine can switch off altogether until the battery is depleted. With the air conditioning on, though, the engine quite often has to keep cutting back in to power the auxiliary systems.

The rear-wheel drive version of the Q50S is a very fine steer on twisty roads, too, where a genuinely adjustable and composed chassis shines through, thanks in part to the clever Direct Adaptive Steering (DAS), which in a world-first move isn't connected to the front wheels by any mechanical means. It's completely fly-by-wire, like a fighter jet, which means the steering responsiveness can be customised to how the driver wants it. It works brilliantly, giving an increased measure of control and a greater sense of confidence, flattering a driver but also giving them the green light to exploit the wealth of talent it has.

There are some small niggles with the new Q50, like the sat-nav screen's glare issue, but it's thoroughly enjoyable to drive. It cruises effortlessly, looks arguably much more stylish than the alternatives and feels solid. Infiniti's customer service is reportedly somethingspecial, too, and you get the feeling that the youngest premium car manufacturer out there might be about to come of age.

Bumper to bumper

Model: Infiniti Q50S, from £40,000 on the road
Engine: Fully enclosed 3.5-litre V6 petrol-electric hybrid system producing 360bhp and 403lb.ft
Transmission: Seven-speed automatic gearbox driving the rear wheels
Performance: Top speed 155mph (limited), 0-62mph in 5.1 seconds
Fuel economy: 45.6mpg
CO2 rating: 144g/km

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MERIVA/AGILA
12 Meriva 1.7 CDTi SE 5dr hatch, Sat Nav, Alloys, glass roof, White, EX demo ... £12999
62 Agila 1.2 SE 5dr hatch, A/C, Alloys, elec windows, EX DEMO, 2900 miles, Silver ... £7999

ZAFIRA FROM £10499
62 Zafira 1.8 Exclusiv 5dr, Cruise control, MP3 socket, A/C, 3800 miles, Technical Grey ... £10499
12 Zafira Tourer 2.0 CDTi SRi, Sat Nav, 19" alloys, Bluetooth, Ex demo, Black Sapphire ... £17499

ASTRA FROM £4999
57 Astra 1.4 SXi 5dr hatch, 16" alloys, A/C, elec windows, 40400 miles, Star Silver ... £4999
08 Astra 1.9 CDTi 150ps 5dr AUTO, A/C, 17" alloys, sport button, 34000 miles, S/lightning ... £6999
60 Astra 1.4 Sport 3dr hatch, body kit, rear sensors, Alloys, 30600 miles, Silver lightning ... £7999
10 New Astra 1.6 SE 5dr hatch, parking sensors, Alloys, Auto lights, 14500 miles, Panacotta ... £7999
60 New Astra 1.6 SE 5dr hatch, front and rear sensors, auto light/wipers, 33700 miles, blue ... £8499
11 Astra 1.4 Sport hatch, 16" alloys, body kit, A/C, 18100 miles, Glacier White ... £8999
60 New Astra 1.7 CDTi Exclusiv 5dr hatch, A/C, electric windows, £30RFL, 17400 miles, Black ... £9499
10 New Astra 1.6 Elite 5dr AUTO, leather, Sat Nav, heated seats, 14700 miles, Technical Grey ... £9999
60 New Astra 1.7 SRi 5dr hatch, 17" alloys, parking sensors, 29100 miles, Technical Grey ... £9999
62 New Astra 1.4 Active 5dr hatch, Bluetooth, Cruise control, 17" alloys, 5600 miles, Red ... £10499
11 New Astra 2.0 CDTi Elite 5dr hatch, Leather seats, Alloys, Sat Nav, Bluetooth, Tech Grey ... £10999
62 New Astra 1.4 Turbo SRi 5dr hatch, 19" alloys, Leather, Bluetooth, 26700 miles, Red ... £11999
11 New Astra 2.0 CDTi SRi 5dr hatch, Parking sensors, Alloys, £30RFL, 10600 miles White ... £11999
13 New Astra 1.6 SE 5dr AUTO, 17" alloys, half leather trim, 10000 miles, Black ... £11999
61 Astra GTC SRi 1.4 140ps, 19" alloys, DAB radio, Cruise control, 9300 miles, Silver ... £12499
62 New Astra 1.6 SRi Tourer, Cruise control, 17" alloys, A/C, 15100 miles, Power Red ... £12499
62 Astra GTC 1.7 CDTi SRi, 19" alloys, Bluetooth, DAB, EX demo, White ... £14999
62 Astra GTC 1.6 Turbo SRi, 19" alloys, Bluetooth, DAB, EX demo, Red ... £14999
62 Astra GTC 1.7 CDTi SRi, 19" alloys, Bluetooth, DAB, EX demo, Red ... £14999
62 Astra GTC 2.0 CDTi SRi, 19" alloys, Bluetooth, Sat Nav, EX demo, Grey ... £17999

INSIGNIA FROM £8699
59 Insignia 1.8 SRi 5dr hatch, 17" alloys, A/C, cruise control, 23600 miles, Black ... £8999
60 Insignia 2.0 SE 5dr hatch, 18" alloys, Parking sensors, half leather, 41400 miles, Black ... £9999
60 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi 5dr, Parking sensors, 18" alloys, Auto lights, 6300 miles, Silver Lake ... £10499
61 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi 5dr hatch, 17" alloys, climate control, 30900 miles, White ... £10999
60 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi 5dr, 18" alloys, parking sensors, 10500 miles, Black ... £11499
61 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv 5dr, Bluetooth, Rear sensors, 23800 miles, Black ... £11499
61 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi 5dr, 17" alloys, Cruise control, 21500 miles, Carbon Flash ... £12499
12 Insignia 2.0 SRi 5dr hatch, 17" alloys, Air con, Cruise control, 11100 miles, Silver Lake ... £12699
12 Insignia 2.0 Exclusiv Tourer AUTO, Sat Nav, A/C, Cruise, 18200 miles, Technical Grey ... £13499
62 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Techline 5dr, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, Sat Nav, 10400 miles, Carbon Flash ... £13999

VXR FROM £10499
09 Corsa 1.6 VXR 3dr, Rear sensors, Sat Nav, Bluetooth, 17" alloys, 15200 miles, Arden Blue ... £10499
10 Corsa 1.6 VXR 3dr hatch, 17" alloys, Recaro racing seats, 17700 miles, Arden Blue ... £10499
61 Corsa 1.6 VXR 3dr, 17" alloys, Cruise control, A/C, 18100 miles, Flame Red ... £11999
13 Corsa 1.6 VXR 3dr hatch, Sat Nav, Bluetooth, rear sensors, 10800 miles, Arden Blue ... £13999
12 Corsa 1.6 Nürburgring, 18" alloys, Rear sensors, Cruise control, 9500 miles, Chilli orange ... £14499
13 Astra VXR, 20" alloys, sat nav, Xenon lights, Aero pack, DAB, 11948 miles, White ... £20999

ANTARA FROM £16499
62 Antara 2.2 Diesel Exclusiv 4x4, half leather, heated seats, 18" alloys, 11700 miles, Grey ... £16499

COMMERCIALS
58 Vivaro 2.0 2900 LWB, Ply lined, 16" alloys, CD, 42200 miles, White ... £8499+VAT

OTHER MAKES
08 Nissan Qashqai 2.0 petrol, 16" alloys, A/C, Elec mirrors, 30100 miles, Beige ... £8999
09 Mini Clubman 1.6 petrol, Bluetooth, 17" alloys, black roof, 32400 miles, Pepper White ... £8999
60 Range Rover Sport 3.0 TDV6 Auto, 19" alloys, Beige leather, htd seats+screen, Nav, 23100 m, Blk ... £34999
60 Mercedes C200 2.1 CDI 4dr Auto, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, Leather, 41400 miles, Grey ... £15999

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Heath Hayes, 106 Hednesford Road, Tel: 01543 495609
Lichfield, 1 Birmingham Road, Tel: 01543 416660
Penkridge, Stafford Road, Tel: 01785 712245
Rugeley, 17 Brereton Road, Tel: 01889 582315
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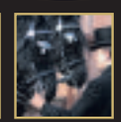
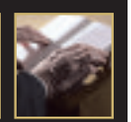
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deaths

BROUGH
Alan
Sadly passed away on Saturday, December 21, 2013.
He was much loved by his Family and Friends and will be missed by all who knew him.
His Funeral Service will take place on Monday, January 6, 2014 at 10.30am, Stafford Crematorium.
Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for British Polio Fellowship and Cancer Research UK c/o
A.J. Sellman, Family Funeral Directors, 70 Church Street, Cannock, WS11 1DH, 01543 502322

JONES
Dorothy Doreen
(Doreen)
Of Cheslyn Hay.
Sadly passed away, December 13, 2013, aged 79 years at Walsall Manor Hospital.
Re-united with Ray.
Will be missed by Family and Friends.
Service at Bushbury Crematorium, Thursday, January 2.
Family flowers. Donations to Air Ambulance c/o Funeral Directors.
The Funeral care has been entrusted to:
FARAGHER MAGUIURE
Saredon House,
19 Station Street,
Cheslyn Hay.
Telephone 01922 418770.

JONES
George
Of Bridgetown.
Passed away December 3, 2013, aged 80 years.
Sadly missed by all Family and Friends.
Funeral Service will take place at Stafford Crematorium, on Friday, January 10, 2014, at 10.30am.
Family flowers only please.
Donations if desired for the Air Ambulance c/o
GEORGE STACEY
Funeral Directors
30 Greenheath Road
Hednesford
WS12 4AR
01543 422524

MASHFORD
George
Formerly of Cannock.
Sadly passed away at his home, surrounded by his Family, on December 19, 2013, aged 88 years.
Will be sadly missed by all.
Funeral details c/o Funeral Directors.
The Funeral care has been entrusted to:
FARAGHER MAGUIRE
Saredon House,
19 Station Street,
Cheslyn Hay.
Telephone 01922 418770.

NEALE
Doris
Sadly passed away Saturday, December 21, 2013, aged 91 years.
Funeral Service to take place on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at Stafford Crematorium at 3pm.
Family flowers only.
Donations if desired to Heather's Care Home.

ROBINSON
Sidney
Passed away on Saturday, December 21, 2013, in Abbey Court Nursing Home, aged 88 years.
Sidney will be sadly missed by all his loving Family and Friends.
The Funeral Service will take place at Streetly Crematorium, on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at 12 noon.
Family flowers only.
Donations if desired to the Stroke Association.
HALLIWELL FUNERAL SERVICE
70, Hednesford Road,
Heath Hayes,
Cannock,
Staffordshire,
WS12 3EA.
Telephone 01543 459200.

WHITE
Kenneth
(Ken)
Of Brindley Heath.
Passed away peacefully on December 18, 2013, aged 78 years.
Reunited with his devoted Wife Sheila and beloved Dad of Paul and Katrina also a loving Grandad, Great-Grandad, Uncle, Father-in-law and Friend.
Service to be held at Stafford Crematorium on Wednesday, January 8, 2014, at 11.30am.
Family flowers only.
Donations to Air Ambulance c/o Funeral Directors.
The Funeral care has been entrusted to
FARAGHER MAGUIRE
Brindley House
75, Broadhurst Green
Hednesford,
Telephone 01543 879866.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT CUSTOMER INFORMATION
Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 11.30am every Tuesday for the same weeks edition.

WOOD
Albert
Passed away, December 18, 2013, aged 76 years.
Dearly loved and sadly missed by all his Family and Friends.
Funeral Service at St Mary's RC Church, Cannock, at 10am, on Friday, January 3, followed by Interment at Cheslyn Hay Cemetery.
Family flowers only.
If desired donations to the Air Ambulance and the British Heart Foundation.
Inquiries to
W EMERY & SONS
Telephone 01785 251205

acknowledgements

TAYLOR
George Albert
Of Dorchester Road, Cannock.
The Family would like to thank everybody for attending on the day of George's Funeral.
We thank you for your generous donations and they have been sent to The British Heart Foundation and R.S.P.C.A. in his memory.

HUTHERSALL
Barbara
nee Edwards
The Family of the late Barbara Huthersall, nee Edwards, would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all those who have so generously supported them with donations, thoughts and cards at this sad and difficult time.
Thank you all once again, it helps to know you care.

in memoriam

MILLINGTON
Stephen
Three years, January 7.
Three years ago our world was torn apart, although you never really left us, you are always in our hearts.
Love you always.
Lots of love, Mom and Dad.

YAPP
Mark
January 2, 2009.
It's been five years since you were taken from us so suddenly my Son.
You're lovingly remembered every day, close in my heart you still always stay.
I will love you always my Son.
Remembered lovingly and also remembering your birthday, January 28.
Your loving Mom.
XXX

birthday remembrances

DUNNING
Sheila
31.12.1941
I think of you every moment of every day.
My forever love.
Doug.
XXX

lost & found

MISSING—Black and White Cat, from Rycecroft area since November 17. If found please contact on 01922 446040.

coming of age

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Monday, December 23	8.30am - 6pm
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Christmas Day, Wednesday 25	Closed
Boxing Day, Thursday 26	Closed
Friday, December 27	8.30am - 6pm
Saturday, December 28	Closed
Monday, December 30	8.30am - 6pm
New Years Eve, Tuesday 31	8.30am - 2pm
New Years Day, Wednesday 1	Closed
Thursday, January 2	8.30am - 6pm
Friday, January 3	8.30am - 6pm
Saturday, January 4	Closed

Please note that our deadlines will be subject to change considerably over the Christmas period. Please call 01902 317 878 for any further information.

1 Family

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4 Pets & Animals

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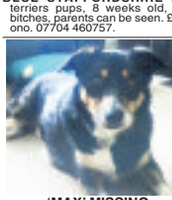

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One externally illuminated fascia sign and one externally illuminated projecting sign.
Application affecting a listed building and Rugeley Town Centre Conservation Area
CH/13/0444
Former Seconds Ahead, 16-18, Lower Brook Street, Rugeley, WS152DF
Listed building consent for internal partition walls and replacement cash office.
Major Application
CH/13/0445
Land to the north of, 270, Norton East Road, Norton Canes
Residential development:- Erection of 4No. 2 bedroom houses, 6No. 3 bedroom houses 4No. 4 bedroom houses and associated works.
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All applications may be inspected at the Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock.
Applications relating to Rugeley and Brereton may also be inspected at the Rugeley Area Housing Office, Anson Street, Rugeley
The Council has published a Service Charter for publicity and information about planning applications and a Code of Conduct for the Planning Process both of which are obtainable from Council Offices free of charge.
If you wish to make comments about any of the above proposals you should do so in writing to the Planning Services Manager, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG by 23/01/2014 Please include a daytime telephone number in your reply and quote the appropriate reference when calling or writing.
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Jess Varnish's sights are set on being world champion after overcoming injury

Varnish at the Manchester Velodrome. *Pictures by Patrick Mulvaney*

Varnish celebrating a gold medal with Victoria Pendleton in the team sprint

Bikes, pain and 200 camels

AS an athlete Jess Varnish may be worth her weight in gold but in Marrakesh it seems her price is considerably lower.

"I almost got sold, some guy wanted to buy me for 200 camels," she says. "I think it was because I've got blonde hair. He was going to my mum: 'Is this your daughter?' and mum was like 'yeah' and he replied: 'She should come and live with me for 200 camels.' I was like 'get me out of here now'."

Varnish, from Halesowen, laughs as she recalls the trip with mum Helen in February, designed to take her mind off the back injury which kept her out for almost six months.

It capped almost 18 months of pain for the Halesowen cyclist following her Olympic disqualification from the team sprint final with Victoria Pendleton in 2012.

The back problem literally added injury to the insult, but silver in the team sprint at the Mexico World Cup with Becky James recently proved her quality.

It added to her team sprint, match sprint, 500m time trial and keirin titles at the National Championships in November – and two bronze medals at the European Championships a month earlier. It allows Varnish to be remarkably philosophical when we meet as the 23-year-old swings her feet over the seat in front of her at the Velodrome in Manchester.

Winning

"The Olympics didn't change me, it doesn't define me being an Olympic champion or winning a medal," says Varnish.

"The injuries probably define me more than the Olympics, because you have to do it on your own.

"Nobody – apart from the people who are really close to you – understands. You have to get on with it yourself.

"I wasn't naive, but I thought nothing bad was ever going to happen. I never thought I'd be restricted with what I could do. It's probably good it's happened, in a way.

"If I got disqualified in the World final I would be gutted, but nothing would ever be as bad as the Olympics. I would be really sad, but I'd get on with it.

"The Olympics is something you've been training for all your life, for this one thing, and then very quickly it's gone.

"It doesn't even mean anything. The injury has put things into perspective. A few months ago I would have been happy going to Mexico just to do anything."

We touch further on the Olympics, but there is little else Varnish can say. She was the only competing member of the British cycling track team not to win a medal in London last summer.

She and Pendleton were disqualified in the team sprint when they were guaranteed silver and would probably have won gold. The nation saw her distraught as Pendleton held her in the Velodrome, the chance of a medal gone, and she has moved on.

There is a World Championship to think about in February in Cali, Colombia, but it's a goal Varnish doubted she would make after such a turbulent year.

A backache on a training camp in Australia in January developed into a more serious problem and left her fearing missing another season. The mundane chores of cleaning and shopping – let alone continuing her career – were put on hold.

And the seriousness of the problem was revealed with a simple sneeze.

"Don't even talk to me about that," she says, still wincing with the memory. "It had been coming on for months. When I was in Australia, I could feel it every day and I just wanted to get home.

"I had an injection and it was an epidural so it had to go into the discs. The needle is long and you go in and out of a scanner when it's in your back. They said: 'That should do it,' but in my mind it was still there. It felt OK, but when you're hurt your body just knows.

"Then one day I was doing a lift in the gym and it just went. I started crying, and I never thought I'd cry in the gym. I thought I'd broken it, I couldn't walk, couldn't bend down or anything.

"And when I got home I sneezed – oh my God! I dropped to the floor in pain – my legs just went.

"Liam (Phillips – Varnish's boyfriend and UCI BMX World Champion) wasn't in the room but I was like 'Liam, what the hell just happened?' My body was out of control; it was bizarre and really scary. Now I've got to sneeze with my mouth open – and just get my germs everywhere. I have to, just because of paranoia."

Varnish had torn the L5/S1 disc in her lower back with fluid leaking out of the disc and surgery or enforced rest were the only options.

She chose rest and only managed to return to concerted training in July, nearly six months after the initial problems.

It was the first injury of her career – give or take a day or two off – and in an honest and vulnerable moment left her questioning a return to the top.

"I wasn't thinking about retiring, but I didn't think I'd be able to come back as before," she says."Every time I was on the bike it was hurting and I didn't want to do it for the rest of my life with pain. There would be no enjoyment.

"I'd go on my rollers in the morning or on a gym bike but I couldn't bend over. I'd just be in pain and how was I meant to put power down in this position?

"The idea of doing a start made me want to cry. Your back is central so everywhere felt awful, I had pain in my legs, everywhere.

"I'd worked so hard to put on muscle and get stronger and more powerful but I came back and everyone was saying I'd wasted away.

"I couldn't do anything to keep the muscle there, I lost 7kg just of muscle.

"It's bizarre because people would think you'd get fat, but I just lost it. I felt awful and weak and thinking: 'How I am ever going to get back to do this?'After the time off I'd come back to the track and train and it would hurt, so they'd just send me home. It was one step forward and two steps back all the time."

Varnish blames the lack of down time after the Games for her injury, believing her body could not cope after the demands of preparing for London 2012.

She had just two weeks off in an attempt to ride herself out of the disappointment but admits, in future, she will ask British Cycling chiefs for more rest.

"We never ever get a break. Looking back I'm really going to push to have that time because if I'd had more time off after the Olympics, I don't think I'd have been injured," she says.

"I came back too early, 100 per cent. I had a couple of weeks off, but I wanted to do it for myself because of what happened at the Games. I wanted to get back into it myself to prove I was still in good shape.

"Your body can't do it at the end of the day – so I ended up having to have five months off. Vicky put a lot of things in perspective and then Chris Hoy got in touch to say that, although things might seem horrible, I was doing the right thing and I would get back into the sport. "To be encouraged by two people who had been through it all was wonderful."

Varnish cracks another smile, joking about her own misfortune. But when it comes to her return, she is focused.

Cycling champion Jess Varnish

China's Lee Wai Sze has built on her bronze in the keirin at London 2012 and team sprint world and Olympic champions, Germany's Kristina Vogel and Miriam Welte – who beat Varnish and James in Mexico – are chief threats. And even though she and James were under China's old world record time set at London 2012, they were still second in Aguascalientes recently.

So does Varnish, who immediately lost the team sprint world record she set with Pendleton at London 2012 to China in the very next race, need to get faster?

"Yep," she says matter-of-factly. "Everyone has got faster, which is great because it shows the sport is going in the right direction."

Her training has changed, incorporating more pilates, as the Worlds and the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this summer loom. "I don't think it's going to be gone ever," says Varnish, who began track cycling at an early age and was selected to join British Cycling's Olympic Development Programme in 2005, making selection a year ahead of her age group.

"It's always going to be something I'll have to manage – and want to manage. It could come back at any time and I want to keep my body healthy for as long as possible. I'm 23 and hopefully have a long career ahead of me.

"It was such a bad injury; I don't want anything like that again. I'll always be aware of it and I'll always do rehab and pilates.

Frustration

"That's what I've started to do because of my back. I've had to change in the gym, I can't do some lifts which I used to do because of the load on the disc."

There's no frustration now, though, even after watching sprint partner James take gold in the keirin and sprint at the World Track Championships in Minsk in February.

The pair, who grew up together in the British Cycling programme, were in Pendleton's shadow.

But there is no battle to become the sport's new golden girl. "We are really good friends, we've been doing the same training, have pushed ourselves and raced together at the World Cup," says Varnish, who also rides for Team V-Sprint Racing, which was founded by dad Jim, a former National and World Cycle Speedway champion.

"I didn't get the icing on the cake at the Worlds because I was in good shape apart from my back, but Becky got all the rewards from it.

"It wasn't my time. Becky has had her injuries, I was happy it all came together."

Varnish dreams about being world champion and emulating James – the closest she has come was team sprint silver in 2011 – something she thought she would have to put on hold for another year.

But after overcoming her demons, on and off the track, it is a realistic aim in February.

The scars have healed and Varnish is happy to the point where she apologises for talking about things too much. It has been a long road, but something which has left her fearless.

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Hayes hit back for a point after slow start

Coventry Sphinx 1 Heath Hayes 1

HAYES recovered from a disastrous start to earn a creditable draw against a Sphinx side who are unbeaten in their last seven Midland Alliance outings.

They received an early warning as straight from the kick off a strike from former Golden Boot winner Luke Williams cannoned off the bar. On five minutes they were not so lucky as a looping header from Ashley Williams was caught by the wind and rather fortuitously ended in the net via an upright.

Trickled

After a sluggish start Hayes at last started to get hold of the ball and took the fight to the home side.

Lloyd Dunnet had strong claims for a penalty turned down and then came close as he beat the advancing Sphinx keeper Carl O'Neil to the ball but it trickled the wrong side of the post.

Hayes were gifted an equaliser on 55 minutes when Sphinx substitute Tom Dyke needlessly bought down Dan Scragg in the box and Dave Waple despatched the penalty.

Sphinx rallied late on but assured defending kept them at bay.

Deep into injury time Scragg had a glorious opportunity to grab the winner, but tried to be to precise and the danger was cleared.

Mile High scores big darts total

RUGELEY darts pro Mark Hylton joined students from Cannock's Steve Brown Academy on the oche.

'Mile High', a former airline cabin steward, joined the students to register the first PDC pro tour players score.

Watched by the students and coaches, SBDA director Darren Barson scored the Rugeley star and he registered 1,231.

Throughout 2014 professional players from all over the country ill be invited to take up the challenge to raise money for the PDC's charity, Haven House Children's Hospice and to raise the profile of junior darts.

Updates will appear on Twitter @sbda1 and on Facebook

Black Star club marks successful year

Martial arts

BLACK STAR AIKIDO celebrated a successful year with their final course and grading on December 15 at the Dojo Headquarters at Cheslyn Hay village hall, in Pinfold Lane..

Chief Instructor Tony Brown a 6th Dan in Aikido said: "It's been a very busy year for us.

"We have expanded and have a further club in Fradley near Lichfield run by instructors Steve Tonks and Andrew Leighton.

"We are going from strength to strength"

The students were tested hard to bring out their individual qualities. Charlie O'Grady aged 11 tested for Green Belt.

He had to learn 20 phrases in Japanese and say them out loud to the grading panel.

He was then asked questions to establish his understanding. He went on to perform open handed techniques and also used the wooden staff to fight others. Neil Howie, a 4th Dan and Senior Instructor for the organisation said: "We honour the arts Japanese roots and it is important that Charlie understands the correct terms and phrases in Japanese.

"This will help him progress," he added.

Aikido is a martial art that suits both males and females and this was demonstrated by both Jenny Dunning and Mia Boxall, both aged 11.

Weapon

Seventeen-year old Jack Degville showed he was worthy of Orange belt by disarming an opponent armed with a wooden sword and then using the same weapon to perform a set pattern of traditional movements relating to the sword craft of the ancient Japanese Samurai. Shihan Tony Brown said: "I love to share my passion for Aikido with anyone who is serious about learning a true and dynamic martial art which stems back to the Samurai arts and philosophy"

The dojo is running brand new beginners class in the new year. They start on Monday, January 13.

For more details about the club, visit **www.blackstaraikido.com info@blackstaraikido.com**

Late festive cheer for Scholars in fight back

Chasetown 2 Romulus 1

CHASETOWN gave their fans some belated Christmas cheer, coming from behind to get three vital points at The Scholars Ground, writes *Paul Mullins*.

The first half of this Boxing Day Evo-Stik Division One South clash at Church Street left a lot to be desired, with the home side failing to register a serious attempt on Lewis Exall's goal.

Football

Romulus edged the chances ever so slightly in that period with a Blake Thompson shot saved low in front of his body by Ryan Price, while Marcus Brown struck the top of the crossbar from long range.

After an improved second half with both sides looking lively on the attack, the deadlock was finally broken 20 minutes from time, with Romulus taking the lead with a superb team goal.

Minutes

Brown outpaced full-back Jack Farmer, and backheeled the ball to substitute Tyron Amory, who delivered an exquisite first-time cross to the far post where former Scholar Craig Marshall scored with a powerful header.

The Scholars were level within five minutes. Paul Sullivan nipped into the box and was going away from goal when Liam Francis inexplicably clipped the Chasetown striker.

The referee had no hesitation pointing to the spot and Simon Brown continued his rich vein of recent goalscoring, thumping the penalty into the roof of the net, possibly clipping the underside of the crossbar. It was his fifth goal in six matches in December.

Chasetown were lifted by the goal and Exall had to be at his best to dive full-length to his left to deny a curling effort from Sullivan.

Eight minutes from time, the comeback was complete when Lee Butler whipped in a cross from the right and an unmarked Ramone Stephens steered a low right-foot shot beyond Exall.

The Scholars were facing a difficult New Year's Day trip yesterday (Wednesday) as they travelled to league leaders Halesowen Town.

Chasetown: Price, Farmer, Keenan, Slater, Robinson, Halsall, D Smith (Butler 25), Bragoli, Wellecomme (Stephens 78), Sullivan, S Brown. Subs not used: Beckett, Teesdale, Watson.

Romulus: Exall, Wynter (Downes HT), Meer, O'Callaghan, Francis, L Smith, Johnson (Amery 68), Thompson (Folkes 80), Marshall, Turton, M Brown. Subs not used: Evans, Barnett.

The Scholars Danny Bragoli clears his lines on Boxing Day as his side come from behind to beat Romulus 2-1

No joy for Chasetown after man dismissed

Coalville Town 3 Chasetown 1

CHASETOWN left Leicestershire empty-handed after a sending off proved a turning point against top-three side Coalville.

The Scholars gave as good as they got in the first half and could have taken the lead when strong appeals for a penalty when Paul Sullivan tumbled under a challenge from Jamie McAteer with the defender's arms around the Chase No.10.

Chasetown took the lead in the 33rd minute when Danny Bragoli's pass set up Danny Smith and his shot looped over keeper Sean Bowles and dipped just beneath the crossbar.

Levelled

Six minutes into the second half the game turned on its head when Anthony Carney appeared to be tripped on the edge of the area but a penalty was awarded.

Scholars left-back Lewis Keenan was dismissed and Callum Woodward stepped up and levelled the score.

Coalville took their extra man advantage and turned the game in their favour. They took the lead in the 70th minute when Andy Hutchinson provided the assist for substitute Jordan Hempenstall to fire home.

Price kept out Hempenstall's effort from a corner but was helpless to stop Ben Saunders'follow-up.

Latest results from indoor bowls league

Indoor Bowls League

Division One

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Division Two

G Garbett & B Taylor 21 M & P Colbourne 9; A Allcock and O Evans 9 ,A Chambers and D Allcock 21; S & C Baird 13, T Partridge & B Stacey 21; C Everitt and S Edwards 9 D Hurcombe and S Powis 21;R Worthington & P Lines 11 L Cavill & M Bardsley 21

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SPORT

Road ahead
Cyclist Jess has worlds in sight
Page 66

Festive cheer
Scholars in Boxing Day comeback win
Page 67

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Pitmen hold top spot for holidays

Vauxhall Motors 2
Hednesford Town 2

HEDNESFORD TOWN hung on to the top spot for Christmas in the Skrill North following a battling 2-2 draw at Vauxhall Motors.

The Pitmen came close to opening the scoring in the 22nd minute when Nathan Woolfe saw his effort crash back off the bar.

Five minutes later Hednesford were behind after a cross cannoned off Woolfe into the path of Tom Rutter who slotted beneath Dan Crane.

Following the half-time introduction of Wayne Riley and Tom Thorley, Hednesford began the second period on the front foot and found themselves level in the 51st minute when the Vauxhall defence was caught square and Wayne Riley was on hand to slot home first time from just inside the box.

Two minutes later, after being deemed to foul Jamey Osborne, Motors' Matty Kosylo picked up the ball and hurled it into the midfielder's face and was dismissed.

From the resulting free-kick, Francino Francis rose highest to head home inside a packed 18-yard box.

On 67 minutes, the home side were level. After playing a nice one-two Lloyd Ellams found himself with plenty of room and he was able to curl the ball home past the helpless Crane.

League looks at expansion

A NATIONAL five and six-a side football company that runs thriving leagues in Cannock and Burntwood has celebrated a record breaking 12 months.

Leisure Leagues, which runs the leagues at Cannock Cricket & Hockey Club and at Burntywood Leisure Centre and Erasmus Darwin Academy, has managed to attract nearly 6,000 new teams and start up more than 45 leagues during 2013.

And executive manager Chris Rowntree, said the company already had plans to grow in 2014.

"We already have plans to open even more leagues this year as well as continuing our expansion into other countries."

For more information about the leagues in Cannock and Burntwood call 0333 123 2340 or sign up at **www.leisureleagues.net**

Etheridge is in no rush to join paid ranks

Walsall boxer Liam Etheridge

Boxing

WALSALL'S Liam Etheridge insists he's in no rush to turn pro as the new national amateur champion pledged his allegiance to the unpaid ranks.

The Pleck ABC fighter was crowned a title holder in the National Ambition Boxing Championships in December and made a name for himself during his run to glory.

Etheridge dumped out three-time national champion Reece Mould at the semi-final stage, before defeating England international Thomas Kindon in the final. Now the 19-year-old featherweight, from New Invention, a sign maker by day, has set his sights on boxing for his country for the first time, rather than turn over to the pro code.

The talented teenager even has lofty ambitions of pushing for a place on Team GB at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio.

He said: "When the Olympics start, I will still be 21 and I want to turn pro when I am 22 or 23. Until then, I want to enjoy the amateur game as much as I can. I have had 75 fights for Pleck and the trainers are like parents to me.

"I was 10 when I first came to Pleck and 11 when I had my first fight for them. It's like my second home and I grew up there."

At the Heart of Portsmouth Boxing Academy on December 8, Etheridge was given the nod in the title decider at 54kg in Class C, for boxers born in 1994 and 1995.

It was third time lucky for the former ABA Schoolboys and junior finalist. Etheridge said: "Nine years I waited for it, but it eventually happened. I trained twice a day, three days a week, and it paid off in the end.

"There's a lot of people to thank for it, it's not all me. I think (trainers) Terry and Tony and Terry (Leonard) were happier than me when the result was announced.

"It was a tough fight in the final. He came back strong, but I kept my guard tight and stood my ground.

"It was a majority decision, which made me worry it was going to go the other way. But when he raised my hand, I jumped up and screamed."

SPARKLING CLASH AS HONOURS EVEN

Hednesford Town 3 AFC Telford Utd 3

HONOURS were shared in a superb advert for non-league festive football after AFC Telford United cancelled out a rousing Hednesford Town second-half comeback.

History suggested that Keys Park regularly plays host to a dramatic Boxing Day fixture and this one was no different with vociferous support for both teams.

The match was played at a frenetic pace and it was Hednesford, quicker out of the blocks, who opened the scoring when Elliott Durrell's free-kick was diverted into his own goal by Neil Byrne on 17 minutes.

Despite finding themselves a goal down, the away side still carried an attacking threat with Pitmen keeper Dan Crane needing to command his area from a flurry of crosses and balls into the box.

Volleyed

The home side looked to have made it to half-time ahead but Telford superbly lit up the proceedings with a goal of real class.

Adam Farrell crossed under pressure from Darren Campion, to the feet of Mike Grogan, who volleyed sweetly into the far top corner to equalise.

Telford came out for the second half suitably fired up and within four minutes were ahead when a deep corner was expertly headed back over Crane by Grogan to send the travelling contingent wild. Andy Owens missed a glorious opportunity shortly afterwards to double Telford's advantage before Keys Park erupted twice in the space of three minutes as the Pitmen equalised and then took the lead.

Hednesford Town

Cult hero Marvin Robinson, re-signed on Christmas Eve, returned with a timely present for the Hednesford supporters as he rose highest at the back post to level the scores from a Durrell corner on 56 minutes.

Then Paul McCone made it 3-2 on 59 minutes, getting the slightest touch to another Durrell free-kick as pandemonium broke out on the terraces.

Rob Smith looked to defend the home side's one-goal lead by bringing on defender Ben Bailey for striker Neil Harvey but Telford, desperately pushing forward for an equaliser, forced the ball into the net as substitute Mike Phenix bundled in from a Matty McGinn corner on 78 minutes.

Neither side were able to create a chance to score an elusive winner.

Hednesford Town: Crane, Disney, Campion, McCone, Francis, Taylor, Osborne (Melbourne HT), Durrell, Harvey (Bailey 66), Robinson, Thorley. Subs not used: Pearson, Woolfe, Riley.

AFC Telford United: Young, Baynes, McGinn, Byrne, Lever, Grogan, Benjamin (Phenix 75), Barnett, Owens, Farrell, Clancy (Gray 75). Subs not used: Bailey, Booth, Pryce.

Attendance: 1,352.

Hednesford's Elliott Durrell celebrates as his free-kick is diverted into the goal by Neil Byrne at Keys Park

An AFC Telford attack is thwarted as Hednesford keeper Dan Crane is about to clear the danger

Griffiths 'will be staying'

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett has shot down talk of Leigh Griffiths being unhappy and insisted the striker is staying put.

A radio report claimed Griffiths, who scored his 13th goal of the season in the Boxing Day 2-0 win over Crewe, hasn't settled in Wolverhampton and wants to return to Scotland.

Jackett dismissed the suggestions and said the 23-year-old will remain at Molineux while revealing he wants to strengthen the attack.

"There's no way that's the case," said the head coach when asked if Griffiths wants out. He's a big part of things here and we're looking to improve our striking department if we can.

"Letting Leigh Griffiths go would not improve it. However I decide to use him he can be a big contributor for us, as he has been so far this season."

Griffiths was on the bench for the second successive game before arriving as a 59th-minute substitute for Dave Edwards alongside lone striker Jake Cassidy as Wolves remained second on goal difference behind leaders Leyton Orient, who are at Molineux on Sunday.

Jacobs keen on loan extension

MICHAEL Jacobs has insisted he would welcome a Wolves loan extension after declaring he wants to help them win promotion.

The 22-year-old winger's loan from Derby expires on January 3. But head coach Kenny Jackett has hinted he is keen to keep Jacobs, who scored his first goal for the club in the 2-0 win against Crewe on Boxing Day.

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